WARREN MAGAZINE

EERIE #66

JUNE 1975

A UNIQUE BOOK-LENGTH BLOCKBUSTER BY BUDD LEWIS & GONZALO MAYO!

EERIE

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HE WAS BRAVE. HE WAS BOLD. HE WAS LEGEND!

EL CID

THE HERO-LORD BATTLES A MAD MAGICIAN'S SEVEN TRIALS!

DEMONS. GOBLINS. BANSHEES. SEA MONSTERS. DWARVES. GNOMES. AND DEATH!

ART: BERNI WRIGHTSON

OUR COVER
El Cid, Warrior-Lord and Protector, faces a menace from the sea sent by the slain sorcerer king, Shadhal Bhegar. Powerfully rendered by Sanjulian. A breathtaking painting.

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EERIE®

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JUNE 1975

4 **DEAR COUSIN EERIE** "EERIE #64 was the best issue yet!" wrote many readers. "The cover was fantastic. And the series are getting better and better. Exterminator One and 'Daddy and the Pie' were tops." There were plenty of suggestions. "Make Exterminator One into a poster." "Let the boy revive Pie with the gadget." "More Exterminators!"

6 **SEVEN TRIALS OF EL CID** Trials by land and sea. Trials by air, fire and water. These were El Cid's reward. He had slain the moorish sorcerer king, Shadhal Bhegar. Now he must face the curses the dying wizard had called upon him. The air around El Cid was breathless with apprehension. The first terror struck from the sea.

34 **EL CID & THE VISION** The Black Knight rushed upon the Cid like something from a nightmare. Slashing. Feinting. Foiling all the Champion's attempts to slay him. Then it happened. El Cid saw an opening in the Black Knight's defense. He raised his sword to deliver a death blow. But the Black Knight was there first. Mighty Cid fell!

42 **THE LADY & THE LIE** Each demon has a purpose. Az and Ahriman had come straight from Hades' Gate. Their mission was simple. They were to tempt hapless humans to commit terrible sins. Then rush their deceived souls to Hell. "El Cid is a warrior lord," they thought, "and used to force. If he but ravishes one woman, his soul is ours."

51 **THE EMIR OF ARAGON** Arias was the most beautiful woman El Cid had seen. That she was a tribute from the conquered Emir of Aragon added to the aura that surrounded her. During the day she delighted the King with her moorish tales. The enchantment of her nights belonged to El Cid alone. And to the dark purpose that guided her!

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"Daddy and the pie'... a beautiful story!"

On page two of EERIE #64, Cousin EERIE said "this is one of my best issues ever." And he was right!

The **cover** was stupendous! **Ken Kelly** has yet to fail to give **Warren** his very best.

Picking the best **story** wasn't easy. **Exterminator One** takes the prize. Second place goes to **The Butcher**, another excellent story. Third place, **Apocalypse**. Fourth, "Daddy and the **Pie**." Fifth goes to **Spook and Crackermeyer**. That series just doesn't cut the mustard. "The Children's Hour" episode of the **Jackass** series brings up the rear.

The **stories** were **all** fine this issue. The art, sad to say, can be improved a bit.

Give us more **Wally Wood**, **Berni Wrightson** and **Gonzalo Mayo**. And **much** more of the talented **Paul Neary!**

JACKIE FROST
West Monroe, La.

If you like Gonzalo Mayo's art, then this is the issue for you, Jackie. A whole book ... drawn by the man who is fast becoming everyone's favorite!

The new series of articles showing how comics are constructed, step-by-step, is a great idea. Keep 'em coming.

DANIEL FLAGG
Redding, Calif.

Thanks to **Alex Toth** and the excellent script he had to work with, "Daddy and The Pie" was a real winner!

If it really needed proving, the story proved once again that **Mr. Toth** is, and always will be, one of the comic world's finest artists. I am truly glad to see him doing another story for **Warren Publishing**.

His best work in the past was done in the early days of CREEPY and EERIE. **Ten** long years ago.

You'd have me shouting from the rooftops if you could tell me that **Mr. Toth** is going to take some time off from his duties in Hollywood to astound us with a few more quality stories in the **Warren** magazines.

C. DIXON
Drexel Hill, Penn.

Start shouting, little buddy. Alex Toth is working non-stop on some of the finest stories you'll see in ANY comic magazine. They're coming up soon in Warren's own CREEPY and EERIE.

Exterminator One and "Daddy and the Pie," two stories written by Bill DuBay received standing ovations. The readers are looking forward to more Exterminators and more of Pie!

Recently, I've noticed more and more the lax attitude of the media when it comes to offensive language. Cursing and out-and-out swearing is becoming commonplace in newspapers, magazines, radio and television. Many offensive words have somehow even found their way into **comics**. And although **Warren Publishing** isn't one of the offenders **yet**, I feel it's only a matter of time before you'll follow the lead of the bigger, more influential "trendsetters."

I know people today swear. And many of them think that the use of such words in a magazine is a sign of its quality. I don't subscribe to that line of thought.

Mad magazine has found a solution that pleases both pro- and con-swearers. They use symbols ?%$@#* to represent offensive words. It gets the meaning across, and is surely better than using language of questionable taste. Please consider this if you are considering at all to jump into the growing stream of language defilers in the media.

DAVE SHEDD
Clearwater, S.C.

Dave, for years now, comics have used the varied dingbat symbols to denote censored speech. While the practice is not particular to MAD magazine alone, it is used most commonly in a humorous vein ... usually in a satirical or cartoon story. Rarely is it used in a "straight," illustrative tale.

We're opposed to the dingbat symbols because they are supposed to be humorous, Dave. We feel they would detract from the serious mood a writer is trying to build into his stories.

But we are opposed also to the offensive language which is all-too-quickly creeping into our every form of communication. Sometimes offensive language may be necessary ... as in news reporting. However, we don't feel a creative writer need resort to it for shock value ... and this is what's beginning to happen in comics, as you point out.

Our answer to this dilemma is a simple one, Dave. We will not use swearing in comics. It's out of place. It's degrading. You'll see an occasional DAMN in extreme instances in a story, denoting high emotion.

We feel that a good writer can shock you, move you and manipulate your emotions without offending you with words.

Whenever I have written to your magazine, I have tried to focus on one subject ... one story. But EERIE #64 was such a **different** issue that I feel **each** story deserves separate mention.

The **Jackass** story, "The Children's Hour," was profoundly well handled. **Bruce Bezaire** laid bare his feelings on drugs and their effect on unsuspecting children. He **preached** to us without being moralistic ... without standing on a soapbox ... by simply giving us a tight, thought-provoking **action** tale.

I don't think that the **Jackass** series should continue indefinitely, obviously. It would become boring and lose its effectiveness. But a few **more** stories as thought-provoking as this one would be most welcomed ... and sorely **needed**.

It seems that **Paul Neary** is always assigned ultra-fantastic stories that grab the readers' interest in such a way that they are never satisfied with just one story. They want more and more. And then, when the reader is on the edge of his seat, the **Neary** character dies. First **Hunter**. Then **Exterminator One**. Next **Exterminator Two**. And **Hunter Two** is coming. Do I detect a pattern? If so, it's one I could easily get **used** to.

The **Exterminator** died this issue. And I died inside. Then we lost The **Butcher!** And my soul went straight to Hell. "Bye Bye Miss American Dream" was twelve times better than the series' first installment. I even read the news articles and was saddened to learn of the deaths of **Buddanski Lewisimo**, **Jimmy Sternsropine** and **Dickie Corbonelli**. **Warren** talent all.

Every once in a while, a "beautiful" horror story is needed. "Daddy and the Pie" was just that story in EERIE #64. Heartwarming. Sincere. Emotion-packed. It actually made me **cry!**

I loved the **Spook** adventure but was disappointed in the **Plague**. **Spook's** "The Caul" was **Budd Lewis'** finest tale yet. But "Apocalypse: The Plague" was the only story **Lewis** has ever written that I **didn't** like. The story was overly loaded with heavy philosophies. It was a **labor** to read in its entirety. It contained some good thoughts, but went **nowhere** with them.

Despite that, **one** let down amidst **five** gems is a record not too many other publications can boast nowadays. Please keep it up. I look forward to much more of the same.

CHRIS PADOVANO
Sayreville, N.J.

"More Exterminator...!"

The **cover** of EERIE #64 alone was enough to strike me utterly speechless. It once again **proved** that the **Warren** magazines are the "slicks" of the fantasy horror genre.

I really got into the various characters of "The Children's Hour." But I'm getting a little tired of the same old routine used in **Jackassing**. Let's find the devil who created Hyde 25 (m)! I'll bet he's a kindly old chap, deeply broken in spirit over the horrors he has unleashed.

The **Exterminator One** story was disappointing. I'm sorry to see the character die. He fought a great battle. But heroes don't always **win** in the **real** world. And the real world is where he lived.

"Bye-Bye Miss American Dream" was a swift boot in the rear. The first panel, depicting the slashed and twisted body of **The Butcher's** victim, shattered all the "noble" aspects of the shrouded avenger myth. It was a harsh slap in the face to all us starry-eyed followers of **The Shadow** and other characters in the pulp-genre. A slap we apparently needed.

The Butcher proved that love nor slaughter are the answer to the world's ills. What is? Maybe we'll destroy ourselves before we ever **find out**.

I don't know how **Jim Warren** did it. But he **did**. He created a **real** human being in the two-dimensional space of a comic strip. **The Butcher** is every one of us. It's too bad we couldn't get to know him better.

"Daddy and the Pie?" Are you sure this is a **comic** I'm reading? Sure, this type of storyline has been done before. But I've never seen it done with such warmth, love and understanding. **Alex Toth's** art only aided a sensitive and sincere script. It's easy to see that his art will draw more praise than even **Rich Corben's** this issue!

BOB ALLEN
Laredo, Texas

The fine childlike feeling infused into "Daddy and the Pie" shows a master's hand. Childlike, without becoming childish!

ED O'REILLY
Ada, Ohio

When I'd finished reading EERIE #64, I thought I'd died and went to Heaven.

I've never read, viewed or seen stories that were so fine, **anywhere**. "Daddy and the Pie," **Exterminator One** and **The Butcher** seemed to reach right out of the magazine, grab me by the throat, and **pull** me headlong into their emotion-packed worlds.

I think it's **no coincidence** that these three stories... stories that actually **involved** me and made me **feel**, were all scripted by **one** writer. And the guy is nothing short of a creative **genius**.

ROB LESKOT
Detroit, Mich.

I have just reread **Exterminator One** in EERIE #63, after meeting **Exterminator One** and **Two** in EERIE #64. And I've come to the conclusion that the **Exterminator** robots are the best characters **Warren** has ever created.

If a character whose stories are lousy, plots are idiotic, dialogue is silly and artwork is mediocre, can get **her** own **Warren** magazine, why can't **Exterminator One?**

He should form a duo with **Slaughter**. He could team up with **Exterminator Two, Three, Four**, ad infinitum. He could battle side-by-side with **Hunter** and the upcoming **Hunter II** in Earth's future. And he could **DIE**... over and over again to our endless **delight**.

Keep the same author! Keep the same artist! And give **Exterminator One** his own magazine!

WULF FRIEDWALD
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Oh, come now, Wulf... who would buy a magazine about a killer robot? It's just too ridiculous to be believed!

HELP! I'M BEING PUSHED OUT OF MY OWN MAGAZINE!

Poor Cousin Eerie's been Coffin all day. Either he has a cold or he's becoming a nervous Schreck. Don't let the Child be Spooked by these series. Write & tell him you care!

DEAR COUSIN EERIE
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

EL CID...OUR RECREATED LEGEND! A BUDD LEWIS-GONZALO MAYO FIRST!

El Cid. Spain's **King Arthur.** A hero who really lived. And his life is the stuff legends are made of.

"The Chronicles of **El Cid**," compiled in the thirteenth century, tell the story of the man born **Rodriguez Diaz De Vivar** in 1040. As a noble, he received a warrior's schooling and, under **King Fernando**, distinguished himself in battles against the Moors who had invaded Spain. He was given the title "Campeador," "The one who is remarkable for his exploits," and placed in command of the king's forces, second only to **King Fernando**, himself.

When **Fernando** died, he divided his kingdom between his three sons and two daughters. **El Cid** swore allegiance to **Don Sancho**, the oldest son. **Sancho** felt that by right of birth the whole of Spain should have been his. Ignoring his oath to his dying father and the advice of **El Cid**, he attacked his brother, **Don Garcia**, defeated him and annexed his kingdom. He absorbed his sisters' land. He then turned to attack his brother, **Alphonso**. But before **Don Sancho** could complete this campaign, he was treacherously slain.

With his dying breath, **Don Sancho** gasped his regret for his broken oath to his father. He begged **El Cid** to offer allegiance to his brother, **Alphonso**. But **Cid**, erroneously believing **Alphonso** responsible for his lord's death, refused to do so.

At last, **Cid** forced **Alphonso** to swear a sacred oath that it was not he who ordered **Don Sancho's** death. **Cid** so pressed the matter that **Alphonso** became permanently vexed with the **Cid** ...admiring him greatly, nevertheless.

Budd Lewis, winner of the 1974 **Warren Awards** for Best Writer and Best Story, has written some exciting sequels to the original **Cid** chronicles. Ancient Spain is geographically far from **Budd's** native Louisiana, but **Budd** well understands and enjoys the unbridled violence of the ancient days of legend.

Gonzalo Mayo's intricate artwork is beautifully suited to the pageantry of history that is more than half legend. He was born in Peru and after a brief sojourn in New York, moved to Mexico, where he lives today. He began to work professionally when he was sixteen. Now, seventeen years later, he brings us **El Cid**... his crowning accomplishment!

Gonzalo Mayo

Budd Lewis

PROLOGUE

FETID, RANK **EVIL** RODE FORTH TOWARD MY SPAIN, CALLING MY ARMIES TO **WAR.**

I WILL PAINT NO **GLORY** OF THAT WAR. FOR GLORY THERE IS **NONE.** THERE WAS BUT **SUFFERING** AND **DEATH.**

I AM ***RODRIGUEZ DIAZ DE VIVAR.*** I AM ***LEGEND.*** A MAN WHOSE NAME HAS TURNED TO ***MYTH.***

THESE PAGES I SCRIBE ARE WISPS OF ***MEMORIES.*** THESE ARE HISTORIES MEANT TO CLEAVE APART ***TRUTH*** FROM ***FALSEHOOD***... CLEAVING TOGETHER ***MAN*** AND THE ***MYTH.***

I AM NO POET'S ***DREAMINGS.***
I AM NO CHILDREN'S ***RHYME.***
NOR AM I ***WRAITH*** FROM TWILIGHT'S DARKENING GLANCE.
I AM THE ***SONGS*** THEY SING OF ME.
I AM THE ***PAGES*** OF STRUGGLING ***HISTORY.***
I AM THE ***TEMPER*** OF SPANISH ***STEEL.***
I AM ***LEGEND.***
I AM ***EL CID.***

El Cid

the Seven Trials

PLOT: BILL DuBAY / DIALOGUE: BUDD LEWIS / ART: GONZALO MAYO

WE ARE IN PERILOUS WANDERINGS, MY CID. THE MEN ARE ILL AND FEVERED... WEAK AND WEARYING FOR DEATH TO EASE THEIR TORMENT.
AH, BLAZQUEZ, THESE ARE BUT MALADIES BORN OF THE SEA. NO CURSE IS THIS.

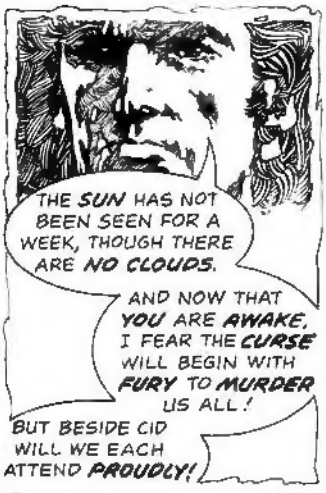
STILL DID MY HEAD RAGE WITH THE FEVERS OF MY WOUNDS.
BUT THROUGH THE BLINDING PAIN I REALIZED THAT THE MAGICIAN KING'S CURSES HAD, IN TRUTH, BEGUN.
MY SOLDIERS HAD ALREADY COMMENCED TO PAY MY FARE FOR ME.

"PERHAPS ONLY THESE FOUL SEAS ARE TO BLAME! BUT MEN SICK... VOMITING WITHOUT END, FEELING THEIR ARMS GROW USELESS, WATCHING EACH OTHER WITHER AND WASH OVERBOARD... TEND TO BLAME MORE THAN THE FATES."
"THEY FEEL CURSED MAGIC KILLING THEM."

AND ALL THE WORSE, YOUR CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP IS DEAD AND WE ARE LOST... WITHOUT RUDDER OR HELM.

YIII! W-WHAT IS THIS TOSSING US ABOUT?
ANOTHER SWELL, MY CID!

THEN WE ARE AT THE MERCY OF THE SEA?
NO, MY CID! WE ARE UP AGAINST MORE THAN FATE.


THE SUN HAS NOT BEEN SEEN FOR A WEEK, THOUGH THERE ARE NO CLOUDS.
AND NOW THAT YOU ARE AWAKE, I FEAR THE CURSE WILL BEGIN WITH FURY TO MURDER US ALL!
BUT BESIDE CID WILL WE EACH ATTEND PROUDLY!

MY LOYAL BLAZQUEZ BROUGHT TEARS TO MY HEART WITH HIS LOVE. YET FEAR WRACKED HIS SOUL... AS EVEN DREAD COWERED AT MY OWN.
FOR THERE, INTERMINGLED IN THE HOWLING WINDS... WERE SHRIEKINGS FROM THROATS INHUMAN BORN.

THE OIL BLACK SEA **ROILED** IN **MALEVOLENT MADNESS** AS FROM ITS DEPTHS SHRILLED THE **SIREN'S** SONG.

AND WALLOWING, BOILING, SEETHING FROM THE OCEAN'S **BOWELS** CAME THE **DIARRHETIC EXPULSION** OF NIGHTMARISH **DEFORMITIES.**

SCREAMING ABOVE THE TEMPEST, THE SEA OF **MONSTROSITIES** MOVED RELENTLESSLY TOWARD THEIR **DROWNING PREY...** THE **WARSHIP** OF **THE CID.**

THE HELLISH **BELLOWING** OF THE FLESH-EATING SIRENS SPRUNG ME FROM MY BED, MY **SWORD** TO FIND.

EVEN THEN, AS YET **UNMINDFUL** OF **WHAT** APPROACHED MY SHIP, **HOARFROST** COVERED MY HEART TELLING ME THE **TRIALS** HAD AT LAST **BEGUN.**

I AM A **SOLDIER**... A **WARLORD!** I HAVE SPILLED AN **OCEAN** OF **BLOOD** INTO **COUNTLESS BATTLEYARDS!**

BUT AS I LOOKED UPON THE CARNAGE, NEVER HAD I SEEN SO **CLEARLY** THE COUNTENANCE OF **DESPAIR** AND **DEATH.**

THE NYMPHS CALLED FORTH THEIR **HAND-DOGS**... THEIR **WOLVES** AND THEIR **SLAVES,** TO CAST THEM **ALL** UPON MY SPANIARDS... TO **SUP** UPON **LIVING ENTRAILS.**

AND YET THESE PLAGUED AND FEVERED SOLDIERS **FOUGHT** THE OCEANIDS WITH WANING STRENGTH.

AND THOUGH MANY WARRIORS LAY DYING AMID THEIR STEAMING **BOWELS,** THE **TIDE** WAS **AT TURN!**

WE **REPELLED** THEM FROM THE SHIP.

DRAGGING THE **GUTTED** FORMS OF THEIR SISTERS... AND **FAR TOO MANY** SPANIARDS... THE GRISLY NYMPHS ESCAPED BACK INTO **BRINE'S HELL.**

BUT IT WAS NOT **YET** DONE. WEAK OF WOUNDS, AND LEFT BEHIND...

...I LOOKED UPON A **CAPTIVE.**

THUS BLAZQUEZ RAISED HIS AXE TO **STRIKE.**

HOLD! DO NOT KILL HER!

THE WAR IS WON. THE BATTLE IS OVER. THIS SORDID CREATURE IS BUT A GIRL.
SHE IS NO MORE EVIL THAN YOU OR I
SPARE HER. AND THROW THESE DEAD TO THE SCAVENGERS OF THE MURK.
THEY LEFT NO MAN WOUNDED.
AYE, THEY BUT CAME AFTER FRESH MEAT FOR THEIR UNDERSEA TABLES!
HUMAN MEAT!
DID YOU SEE THE CID? SO ILL, FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE WITH US, IN THIS... BUT THE FIRST TRIAL.
SI... WE LOVE OUR CID, BUT HOW LONG CAN DEVOTION SURVIVE? THROUGH SIX CURSES MORE?
SHE IS BOUND, BUT SHE WILL REMAIN VICIOUS LORD.
SHE WOULD KILL US AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY.
WHEN SHE SEES WE MEAN NO HARM, SHE WILL MEAN NONE.
THEN PERHAPS OTHER SHIPS WILL NOT BE ATTACKED BY HER TRIBES.
AND TOO... HOW LOVELY SHE IS. SHE REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER... A GIRL I ONCE LOVED, BUT LOST LONG AGO... TO THE SEA.
PERHAPS IN SOME TWISTED WAY... I SEE HER IN THIS CREATURE

DAYS SLIPPED BY LIKE DISTANT SHADOWS. I WATCHED THE GIRL GROW STRONGER... AND MORE SECRETIVELY DEEPER BROODING.
I WATCHED MY HEROES GROW WEAKER, CHOKING ON THEIR OWN VOMIT... DYING, SHRIVELING INSIDE THEIR SOULS.
AND STILL WE FOUND NO LAND... VAINLY SEARCHING THE WATERY HORIZON FOR HOME.
EVEN I BEGAN TO WONDER IF THIS WAS NOT TRULY THE SECOND TRIAL.
WHAT IF THE ENTIRE EARTH HAD BECOME AN ENDLESS SEA? AND LAND THERE WAS NO MORE!
THEN, ABRUPTLY, THE SAMENESS STOPPED...!
MY CID BEWARE! A SEA WORM IS UPON US!
THE MAMMOTH CREATURE PLUNGED TO THE SURFACE, EYEING US IN A HUNGRY PURSUIT.
NONE THE LIKE OF SUCH BEAST HAD I SEEN, AND SURELY MY MIND FELT THE FETID CHILL AS BLACK WINGS OF MADNESS RUSHED ABOVE MY CREW.
THEN, DOWN DIVED THE SCALED HEAD, TO THE BOILING DEPTHS.
MY WARRIORS BREATHED PANIC AS THE NEXT MOMENT OF THEIR LIVES WAS SURELY TO BE THE LAST.
THE WORM WAS GONE... THE AIR GREW QUICK...THEN SOMEONE FELT THE RUSH, HEARD THE ROAR AND SCREAMED INTO THE SKY!
THE SECOND CURSE HAS COME.

THE GREAT WORM SPREAD LEATHERN WINGS AND SPRANG INTO THE TORRENTIAL SKY.
BLEDAGO!
IN THAT MOMENT, WE HEARD A SCREAM...
...AND SAW OUR CAPTIVE RIP FREE OF HER BONDS!

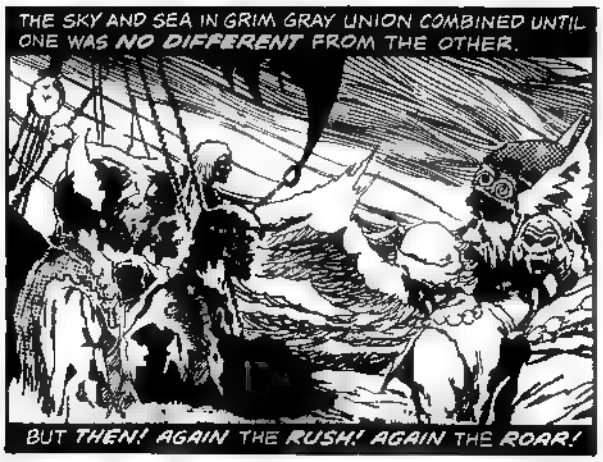
WE HAD A COMMON ENEMY!

AND THE GIRL WISHED TO JOIN IN THE KILL!

QUICKLY! MOUNT YOUR CANNONS! IT COMES!

ENEMY TO DENIZEN OF THE DEEP AND SURFACE WORLD BOTH, HIDEOUS BEAST STRETCHED FORTH ITS AWESOME MIGHTINESS!
LIKE THE GOD OF HELL IT CRINGED US, AND BRAVE MEN WEPT LIKE CHILDREN.

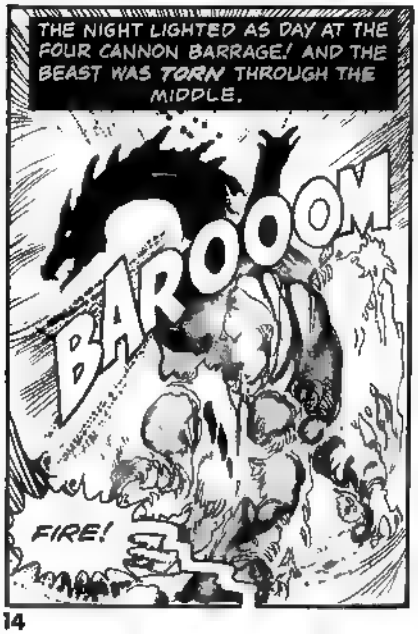
THEN...LIKE THE EXPLOSION OF THE SUN...
...IT FELL!
SO PONDEROUS WAS THE THING, IT SNAPPED MAINBRACES AND BOOMS, MAST AND BEAM, SMASHING MEN INTO JUICE LIKE BOOTS SMEARING SUMMER BEETLES.
THE DRAGON ROLLED FROM THE RUINED DECK SUCKING MAN MEAT DOWN ITS MAW...
...AND WAS QUICKLY GONE BENEATH THE WAVES.



AND THE DRAGON MADE ITS SECOND LUNGE!

MEN SCREAMED AND FELL AWAY FROM IT. BUT THIS TIME, THE CANNONEERS WERE READY. I GAVE THE COMMAND.

CANNONS STRAIGHT ON! HERE IT COMES!



THEN, LIKE HUNGRY GHOSTS ESCAPING THROUGH CRACKS IN A TOMB, AGAIN THE THUNDERING OF GIANT WINGS RENT THE BLISTERING WINDS.
OUR CANNONS HAD NOT STOPPED IT.

IN THE TWITCH OF AN EYE, THE DRAGON TORE DOWN UPON THE RAVAGED DECKS, RIPPING INTO THE ENTANGLEMENT OF COILING LINES AND ROPE.

IT THRASHED TO RIGHT ITSELF... TO FIND MORE MEAT. YET IN THE THRASHING IT MADE ITSELF EVEN MORE SECURE AMID THE CONSTRICTING MASTING TIES.
CAUGHT AND BOUND FOR THE MOMENT...

...AND WITHOUT WORD BETWEEN US, BLAZQUEZ AND THE SEA-GIRL RACED WITH ME ALONG THE WRITHING MONSTER'S BACK...

...TO WHERE WE THREE MET IN VIOLENT TRYST AT THE SERPENT'S HEAD.
AT ONCE, EVEN AS DOWN DIPPED MY BLADE, SPLINTERING THROUGH THE SKULL TOWARD THE VILE BRAIN, THE GIRL'S AXE AND BLAZQUEZ'S SWORD RANG IN VICIOUS ACCOMPANIMENT, CHOPPING OUT THE GLARING EYES.

THUS! IT WAS DONE!
THE SEA DRAGON LAY STILL... FOUL KHOR POURING FROM EMPTY SOCKETS.

MY HEROES FELL SILENT.
MANY WOUNDED... EVEN MORE OF THEM SICK WITH FEVER... EACH GAVE THANKS UNASHAMEDLY.

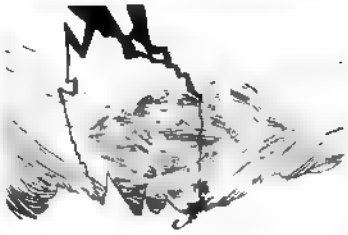
THERE WERE NO WORDS FOR SHE AND I.

EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NOT TONGUE FOR SPEAKING, THERE WAS TIME FOR UNDERSTANDING.

WE COULD BUT TOUCH AND KNOW. LIVE AND BE.

AND FOR US...

AFTER WHAT WE HAD SURVIVED...


...IT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN OUR SPIRITS.

YET HAD WE KNOWN OF THE ONE WHO AWAITED US UPON THE DISTANT SHORE...

...PERHAPS OUR COMFORT WOULD HAVE NOT BEEN SO COMPLETE!

FOR ON THIS ISLAND AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD... LURKED HE WHO WOULD BRING ME THE THIRD TRIAL OF EL CID!

the Seven Trials of El Cid
Part II

MY SHIP, THE *REGAL* WARSHIP OF CID, LAY BEFORE ME, GUTTED, RUINED, BROKEN AND LITTERED WITH MY *DEAD* AND DYING SPANIARDS. *AND* THE CARCASS OF A *FALLEN DRAGON.*

SEA AND SKY *ROILED* IN ANGER. GRAY BOISTEROUS SWELLS OF VIOLENCE *BELLOWED* ABOVE AND BELOW MY TATTERED GUARD.

YET AMID THIS DEMENTED CARNAGE, STANDING TALL, *DEFIANT*... AS *ROYAL* A FIGURE AS EVER GRACED KING ALPHONSO'S COURTS... WAS MY *SEA NYMPH!* MY HUNTRESS FROM THE FATHOMLESS DEPTHS.

SHE *ALONE* STOOD BESIDE CID. SHE MY *STRENGTH*... MY *PASSION.*

SHE GAVE STERN EYES TO THESE *TEMPESTUOUS* HEAVENS. AND WHILE I TOOK GAZE AT ONLY HER *LOVELINESS*... SHE SEARCHED ABOVE FOR SOMETHING... *SOMETHING* THAT *TROUBLED* HER ANIMAL SENSES.

THEN... SHE *POINTED* INTO THE NIGHTSHADE SKY, HER KEEN EYES PIERCING THE DEEPNESS.

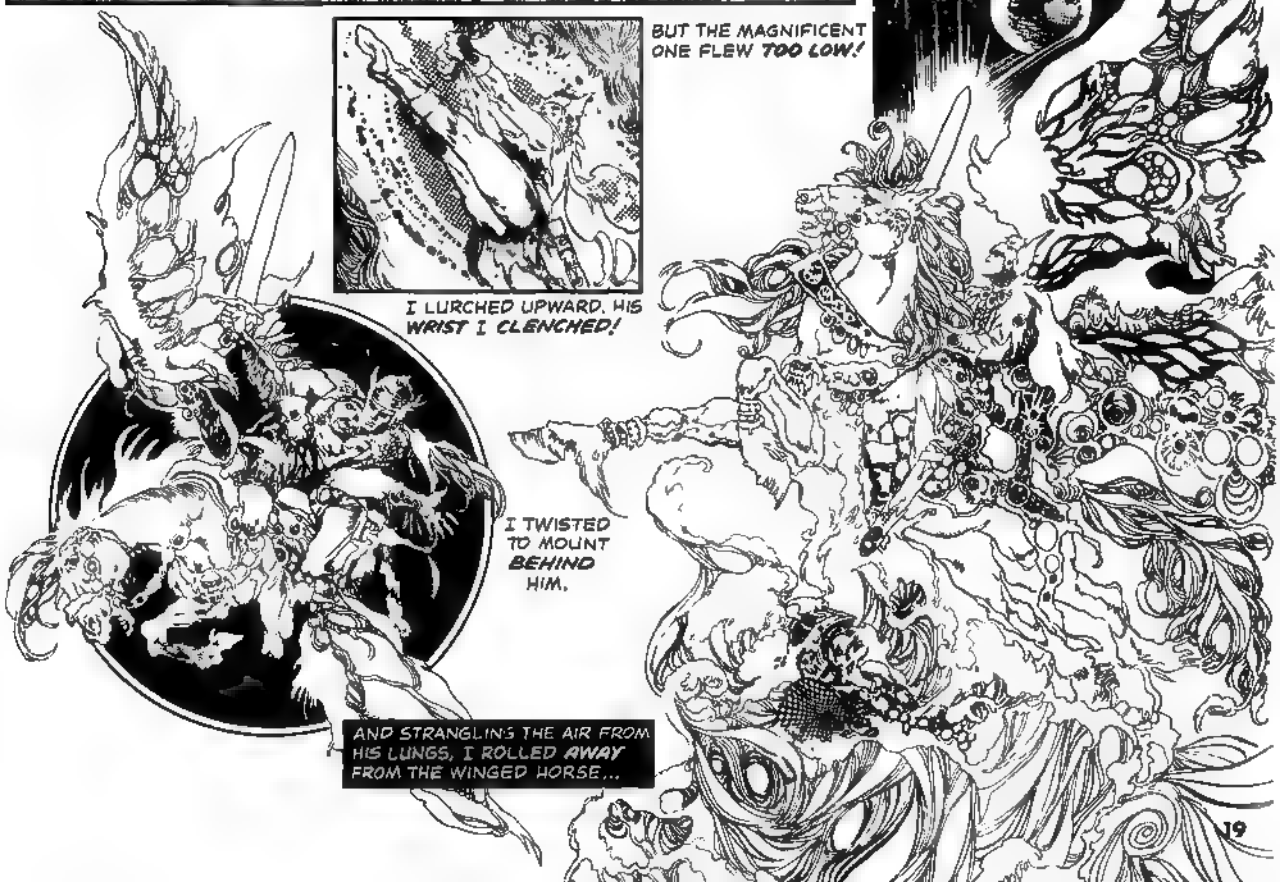
WHITE SHAPES APPROACHED! SEABIRDS?

NO! MORE! THERE CAME HOWLING, SOARING, AS FROST FALCONS RIDING WINTER'S NORTHER BREATHS, LEERING MOUNTED KNIGHTS!

EACH WERE MOUNTED ASTRIDE GREAT WINGED BEASTS... SURELY THOSE VERY SONS OF PEGASUS, FOAMING WILD AND WARSOME BRED!

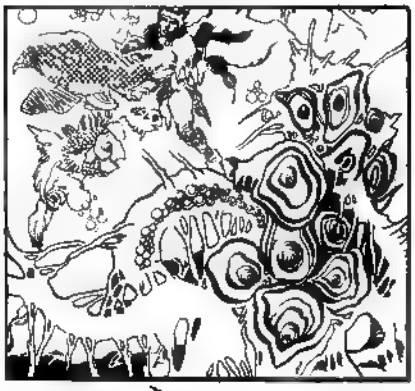
BUT THE MAGNIFICENT ONE FLEW TOO LOW!

I LURCHED UPWARD, HIS WRIST I CLENCHED!



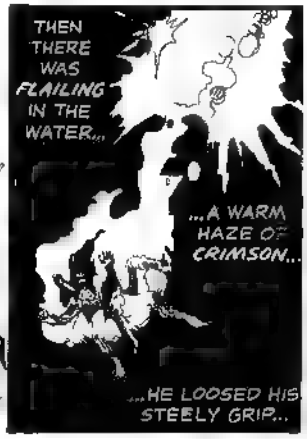
THE KNIGHT'S IRON FIST ENCIRCLED MY THROAT, FORCING MY INTAKE OF BRINE.

THE CHURNING SURFACE FRAUGHT ITSELF HIGH ABOVE OUR HEADS AS WE SWAM TOGETHER... HE, HIS DAGGER DRAWN FOR A SWIFT FINALE.



I FOUGHT AN IRONMAN, HIS MIGHT GREATER, FOR THE GRAVE WOUNDS WHICH SAPPED MY OWN.

BLACKNESS CLOSED ON ME... HIS SNARLING FACE... THE GRIM DAGGER.



BLAZQUEZ AND MY LOVELY NYMPH ATTENDED MY SICKNESS...

...AND WITH WHITE HOT BLADE, TEMPERED IN A BRAZIER, CLOSED MY CHEST AND SIDE WOUNDS.

HERE, MY CID, A DRY BEARSKIN CAPE TO STAY THIS ETERNAL DARKNESS CHILL.
WAS A CURSED MAN EVER SO CARED FOR? THANK YOU FOR YOUR STRENGTH, BLAZQUEZ.
NOW, BELOW TO BED LORD?

NO... NO BED. ONLY THE THIRD WOE IS PAST
SURELY THE REST COME SOON.
BUT... AM I BEING FOOLISH? ARE THESE DISASTERS TRULY CURSES... OR BUT HAPPENSTANCE?

UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE, I WILL NOT REST FOR TAKING GUARD!
DARK NIGHT FOUND A DARK MORNING... GRAY, YET TURBULENT AND FOUL. THE SEAS ALWAYS RAGING AS CONSTANT REMINDER OF FOREBODING PERIL.
IT WAS UPON THAT DREARY DAWNCAST MY SCANT NUMBERED CREW SPIED LAND. AND THERE WAS HOPE UPON WHICH TO CLING.

THE WONDEROUS SIGHT OF THIS FEY FLUNG *ISLAND* WAS BUT HEALING TONIC TO WARRIORS OF THE SOIL, TOO LONG *SICK* AT SEA.

YET, THOUGH *DELIRIOUS* WITH JOY AT LANDSIGHT, A DARK *SHADOW* FLIT ACROSS MY MIND.

WAS THIS THE LAND FROM WHENCE FLEW THE FELL *KNIGHTS* AND THEIR WINGED *HORSES*? WHAT PLACE *MIGHT* THIS BE?

IT WAS, AT LEAST, *LAND*. AND WE *REJOICED* IN THAT!

BUT THERE WERE THOSE THAT REJOICED *NOT* IN THE SIGHTING OF *US*.

DRAW THINE *AXE*! TAKE THINE *SPEAR*! HERE BE THE *RAIDERS* OF OUR HOMES.

HIE! LET US *HEW* THEIR *BONES*, *SUCK* THEIR *GUTS*!

AYE! AND PITCH THEM *BACK* INTO THE *SEA*!

GOD HAS *BLESSED* US! IT IS *UNINHABITED*!

THIS SHOULD PROVE THE *HOLLOWNESS* OF A DYING MAN'S CURSES!

BUT *THEN*...!

UNSTEADY FEET TOUCHED GROUND, AND WE TOOK *GRATEFULLY* TO THE SHORE.

HORRID LITTLE *BEASTS* DROPPED HACKING A *BLOODY SWATH* THROUGH MY BLEARY SOLDIERS!

THIS WAS *TOO MUCH* FOR THE *WRATH* OF *CID*!

NO MORE COULD I SEE GOOD SOLDIERS FALL PREY TO MONSTERS!

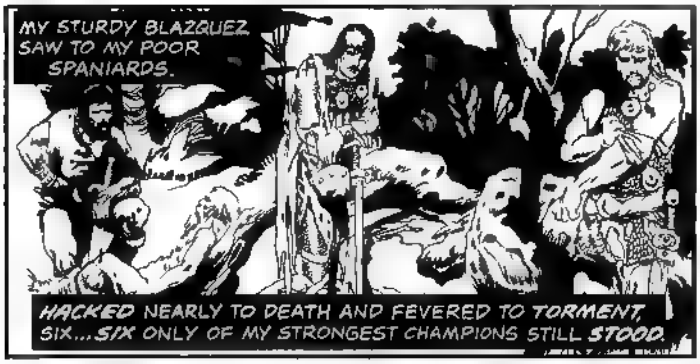
MY ARMS SURGED WITH UNNATURAL STRENGTHS AND MY SWORD BIT LIKE LIGHTNING AND DRANK LIKE VAMPIRES!

AND LO! THE AIR GREW MISTY WITH RED, WET MAZE, AS I SLEW THE MADNESS AROUND ME!

HOW IS INSANITY BATTLED IF NOT WITH GREATER INSANITY? THE VILE, MURDEROUS BEINGS FELT THE UNLEASHED EXPLOSION OF CID'S OWN MADNESS.
I WHIRLED, SLICED, HACKED, PARRIED, CHOPPED... AGAIN AND AGAIN!
IT FELT GOOD! SO GOOD! BLOOD! BLOOD! I SCREAMED!
I WAS THE BUTCHER AND THEY THE LUMBERING COWS COME HAPLESSLY TO THE SLAUGHTER!
...AND CRUSHED BRAINS FROM SKULLS BAREHANDED!
I SLEW UNTIL DEATH GREASE AND GUT SLIME MADE SLIPPERY THE GRIPS OF MY SWORD! YET I WANTED MORE! MORE! SO I LEFT MY BLADE TO DRY...
BUT THEY WERE THROUGH!
THOUGH, I WAS NOT! I HAD NOT YET PULLED BEATING HEARTS FROM BLOODY CHESTS... ENOUGH SEEING EYES FROM ICHOROUS SOCKETS...
...I HAD NOT BUTCHERED ENOUGH TO EQUATE MY LOVE'S DRAINING BLOOD!
TOO SOON THE WAR WAS FLOWN... TOO LATE MY LOVE WAS TORN FROM MY HEART.

I KISSED MY NYMPH'S BLOODIED BREAST. AND TEARS OF SORROW WERE WASHED AWAY BY TEARS OF JOY!

SHE YET LIVED! SHE YET LIVED AND MIGHT STILL BE CID'S LOVE.



SURELY THE DEFORMED CREATURES FEARED THE BLOODTHIRSTY RAIDERS FROM THE SEA...

...FOR WHEN WE FOUND THE VILLAGE... THERE WAS NO DWARF NOR WIFE NOR TWISTED BABE.

THEY HAVE FLED INTO THE FORESTS. KINDLY HAVE THEY LEFT BEHIND A VILLAGER'S COMFORTS.

HERE WE SHALL HEAL!

I LAY THE GIRL DOWN WITHIN A COMFORTABLE LODGE AND BENT TO SEE OF HER WOUNDS.

SHH. HERE MY TENDER CHILD. SLEEP. CID WILL TEND AND WATCH

SHH. DREAM.

DARK NIGHT GATHERED ABOUT MY EXHAUSTED SOLDIERS AS DOWN THEY LAY TO DIE OR CURE.

TOO DEEP HER CUT AND WIDE. I HAD SEEN BRAVE MEN SUCCUMB TO LESS HURT THAN HER'S. SLEEP CAME DARK AND DEEP.

DON'T LEAVE ME. PLEASE MY LOVE. DON'T LEAVE MY HEART SO SOON.

I LOVE YOU. LOVE YOU.

NIGHT GREW QUICK, AND THE FOREST GREW TENSE. A SHADOW FELL ACROSS THE MOON.

AND THE NIGHT AIR REEKED OF THUNDER!

THE HEAVENS SURGED, SIZZLING LIGHTNING BOLTS BLINDED THE NIGHT!
FIRE LANCES ATTACKED THE VILLAGE!

I LURCHED FROM MY SLUMBERS, RIPPING WOUNDS OPEN IN HASTE!
TEARING MYSELF FROM MY DYING NYMPH I SAW A SOLDIER EXPLODE AFIRE!
MY CID! ABOVE! YIIIIIIII!

UPON MY INCINERATING HERO'S WARNING, AT ONCE I GLANCED INTO THE LIGHTNING GLOWING SKY!
AND HIE! HELL HAD CRACKED OPEN TO LET FLY DEMENTED SPECTRES LOOSE!
A SKYSHIP! ITS PILOT CALLED FORTH MAGICS AND FIRE BOLTS DOWN UPON OUR REFUGE!
THE PILOT! HIS FACE!
SHADHAL BHEGAR!

THE FACE OF THE LIVING DEAD LOOKED DOWN UPON HIS LAST ENEMY! EL CID!
THE MAGICIAN KING... THE CURSEMAKER, SHADHAL BHEGAR! DEAD, BUT RETURNED OF THE FIFTH CURSE!
NO MONSTER MORE FELL THAN THIS HAD WE YET FACED!

HE GESTURED NEW FIRE!

I SAW MORE SOLDIERS IGNITE AND DIE!
AND THROUGH IT ALL DASHED BRAVE BLAZQUEZ... WITH TWO LONG BOWS AND QUIVER!

QUICK, LIGHT YOUR SHAFT FROM GONZALO'S BURNING BODY!
SI, BLAZQUEZ...! WE BOTH KNOW WHAT TO DO!

WE LOOSED TWO FLAMING ARROWS AT BOTH THE SHIP AND SAIL.

ORTIZ! QUICK! TAKE YOUR BOW! DO WHAT CID HAS DONE!

TOGETHER NOW! AIM FOR THE MAGICAL SHIP!

NO MAN CAN TWICE KILL ANOTHER! I COULD NOT TWICE KILL HE! BUT FLAMES DEVOURED HIS MORTAL SHIP!
AND GONE, AT LAST, WAS HIS SPECTRE... BACK INTO THE NETHER, IN THE RIVER STYX TO SINK!

WE THREW FIRE BOLTS IN SPANISH REPLY! A SHAFT PIERCED THE EVIL LORD! BUT HE ONLY SCOWLED IN ANGER! NOT DEATH!
CID, THE FIGHT IS LOST! YOUR SWORD IS NOT ENOUGH! HOLD!

NOW... NOW I AM SURE. I AM CURSED. THERE WAS MAGIC BEHIND THESE EVILS. I'D HOPED DIFFERENTLY.
AS DID WE.
BUT I WONDER. WHAT COULD THE WIZARD SEND MORE TERRIBLE THAN HIMSELF? WHAT COULD TRIALS SIX AND SEVEN BE?

THE DARKNESS RUMBLED WITH A THUNDEROUS ANSWER TO MY QUERY. AND NIGHT WAS DAY. FOR DEATH'S OWN FUNERAL COACH AND A SIX FIREBORN HORSE TEAM SCREAMED TO EARTH FROM OUT OF THE VOIDS.
AND LORD GOD! A BANSHEE DROVE THEM ALL!

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT CAN FOLLOW THAT WHICH HAS GONE BEFORE!
WE MUST FIGHT DEATH HIMSELF!

THEN WE WILL CONQUER DEATH, MY CID... AS WE HAVE CONQUERED FIVE PREVIOUS CURSES.

AYE! WE WILL DEFEAT DEATH AND HIS BANSHEE COACHMEN...
...FOR DEATH WILL TAKE NO MORE LIVES FROM EL CID!

I SCREAMED MY HORROR AND HACKED BLOOD FROM DEATH'S BANSHEE WRAITH! BUT NEVER WOULD IT SLOW!
IT HEADED TOWARD THE DWARVES' HUT... AND MY TORTURED NYMPH!
STOP, BANSHEE DEVIL! LEAVE THE GIRL ALONE AND COME TAKE ME! IF YOU CAN!
STOP, DAMN YOU!

YOU ANGER ME, FOOLS! I COME FOR THE SOW PIG! AND TAKE HER I SHALL!
NOW LEAVE ME!
I BADE BLAZQUEZ TO TRY TO HALT THE BANSHEE DEATH WRAITH... AND I RAN TO MY SLEEPING NYMPH.
I SOUGHT TO STEAL HER AWAY FROM THIS MAD PLACE, EVADING DEATH'S COLD KISS.
SHE SMILED AT ME WITH HER LAST DROP OF LIFE... AND FILLED MY SOUL WITH LOVE.
WHILE WITHOUT, THE LAST OF MY HEROES FELL... PALED AND DEAD, AS DEATH FILLED FULL HIS FUNERAL COACH.
CID, THE FIGHT IS LOST! YOUR SWORD IS NOT ENOUGH! HOLD!
IT WAS TRUE... FOR THE SHE-THING ENTERED THROUGH THE VERY WALL!

THE BANSHEE BRUSHED ME BY AND WENT TO BEND ABOVE MY LOVE.

IT KISSED HER ONCE AND DREW OUT HER SOUL...THAT NOW SHE BELONGED TO DEATH.

I SLASHED AND CUT AND BLED THE BANSHEE, BUT UNPHASED IT KEPT MY LOVE.

PLEASE... PLEASE?.

BUT ALL THAT REMAINED TO ME OF CHERISHED LOVE THAT WAS HERE, WAS HER NECKLACE.

FOR SHE HAD GONE UPON DEATH'S DARKER KINGDOM TO SEEK.

MY VISION SWIRLED, THE MADNESS WHIRLED, AND SOMEWHERE I HEARD BLAZQUEZ SAY, "BUT ONE TRIAL MORE, LORD... AND THE CURSE OF SEVEN WILL BE PAST."

NO. NO TRIALS MORE...!

AND WHAT MORE BITTER DEATH TO ME THAN DEATH TO THE ONE I MOST LOVED?

FOR THE SIXTH BROUGHT THE SEVENTH...AND THE SEVENTH BROUGHT DEATH AS PROMISED.

I MUST THEN HAVE COLLAPSED.
FOR SLEEP'S DARK MERCY BADE ME FORGET.
YET ALL TOO SOON, MORNING SUNLIGHT USURPED MY SLUMBERINGS AND I CAME AWAKE... LOST.
GOD'S BEARD! MY CID AWAKES!
BLAZQUEZ! WH... WHAT IS... THIS PLACE!
THIS IS CID'S WARSHIP.
AND WE'VE SAILED CALM SEAS ALL THE WAY FROM THE WIZARD'S DARK KINGDOM!
ORTIZ? YOU LIVE!
BUT THE BANSHEE... KILLED YOU!
ONLY IN YOUR FEVERED DREAMS, MY CID.
NOW YOU ARE AWAKE AND NO ONE IS DEAD. ALL ARE WELL... AND QUITE NEAR HOME.
THE WIZARD'S CURSE WAS FALSE... BUT NOT SO HIS POISON DIPPED SWORDPOINT.
YOU TASTED OF HIS DEADLY BLADE, AND HAVE LAIN NEAR DEATH IN A DEEP DREAM-LIKE STATE THROUGHOUT OUR JOURNEY HOME, MY LORD.
SEVEN DAYS HAVE YOU BEEN UNCONSCIOUS.
BUT THE TRUE MAGIC WAS WORKED BY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NURSE TO EVER ESCAPE A MAGICIAN'S COURTS.
IT WAS SHE WHO BROUGHT YOU BACK TO US.
AS MUCH TIME AS YOU TWO HAVE SPENT TOGETHER RECENTLY, IT'S TIME YOU WERE INTRODUCED.
I THINK WE NEED NO INTRODUCTION, MY NYMPH AND I.

THE SKY WAS NEVER SO BRIGHT, SO CLEAR, NOR THE SEA SO CALM AND BLUE.

THE SEVEN TRIALS WERE AT END. OR PERHAPS THEY NEVER BEGAN AT ALL EXCEPT IN MY FEVERISH DREAMS.

BUT... THERE WERE MY SOLDIERS EVER AT MY SIDE, HEARING MY ALOUD SPOKEN DREAMS AND TRIALS... AND, SOLDIERS LOVING GOOD TALES, DO TEND TO LEND FACT TO FICTION AT TIMES.

PERHAPS THIS IS ONE OF THOSE PLACES LEGENDS BEGIN.

I STOOD, BLAZQUEZ AND MY NYMPH AT MY SIDES, AND BEHELD AGAIN IN BREATHLESS AWE THE MAJESTIC SPLENDER OF ANOTHER PLACE WHERE LEGENDS BEGIN...

THE LAND OF MYTH. THE HOME OF LEGEND. THE SPAIN OF EL CID.

THEY CALL ME CID CAMPEADOR, "LORD PROTECTOR", THE MASTER, BRAVE FIGHTER. THEY LOOK UPON ME AS SOMETHING MORE THAN MORTAL MAN.

THEY LOOK UPON ME AS LEGEND, YET, THERE IS MORE TO LEGEND THAN A TITLE OF RESPECT AND HONOR. THE "LORD PROTECTOR" HIMSELF EVEN NEEDS PROTECTION... FROM THE WAYS OF THE WORLD HE PROTECTS.

SLEEP PEACEFULLY, MY SPAIN...THY PROTECTOR WATCHES FOR YOU. YET... WHO WATCHES FOR ME?

El Cid and the Vision

IT WAS A DARK DAY FOR CID AND SPAIN WHEN FIRST I REALIZED I WAS NOT MY

SPANIARDS! CHAINED AND SLAUGHTERED IN THEIR OWN FORTRESS!

OLD MAN! THE CASTLE OF PENA CADIELA HAS BEEN RANSACKED! WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

C...CID? OUHH...!

T-THE MOORS! TH-THEY BEGAN THEIR BLOOD CAMPAIGN HERE AND RODE TO CAPTURE CALAHORRA NEXT!

T-TELL KING ALPHONSO. W-WARN SPAIN... MY CID!

ADIOS, BRAVE FRIEND.

PLOT: GERRY BOUDREAU / DIALOGUE: BUDD LEWIS / ART: GONZALO MAYO

TOO LONG HAD THE MOORS KEPT SHEATHED THEIR BLOODY SWORDS, YET TIME HAD BROUGHT THEM FORTH AGAIN.
SUDDENLY A BLACK CLOUD GATHERED BEFORE MY PATH BACK TO ALPHONSO.
A MOORISH KNIGHT. BLACKER THAN DEATH'S DARK LANTERNS. GRIM. OMINOUS AS HEWN CIMMERIAN STONE.
I AM THE CHAMPION OF CALAHORRA. YOU WILL NOT PASS THIS WAY ALIVE, MAGGOT.
THE NEWS YOU TAKE TO ALPHONSO WILL DIE IN YOUR THROAT
COME TO ME.
IN SILENT ANSWER TO THE CHALLENGE I FOUND HORSE AND STEEL.
THUNDER ROILED BENEATH HOOVES, LIGHTNING GLINTED FROM SWORDS.
SPANISH STEEL SHRIEKED AGAINST MOORISH. WARHORSES SCREAMED IN CLASH.
CONJURING DEEPLY INTO MY STRENGTH I SMOTE THE BLACK ONE AGAIN AND AGAIN. BLOWS TO SPLIT A NORMAL MAN FROM HEAD TO GROIN.
YET... THE BLACK MOOR STOOD HIS GROUND, HEEDLESS OF CID'S ATTACK.
AND A GROWING CHILL CREPT FROM MY SWORDBLADE TO MY ARM, SETTLING AROUND MY HEART.

IT SEEMED A ***THOUSAND YEARS*** I LABORED AGAINST THE MOOR. YET ***NEVER*** COULD I PIERCE HIS DEFENSES. ***NEVER*** HAD CID FACED SUCH ***POWERS***.

THEN...AN ***OPENING!*** MY FINEST ***THRUST*** I READIED. MY SWORD HAS SLAIN TEN HUNDRED MEN WITH THIS, MY ***DEADLIEST*** BLOW! I ***STRUCK! HE PARRIED!*** THROWING ME TO THE ***GROUND!***

VANQUISHED, STUNNED, CHOKING UPON DEFEAT, I LOOKED UP FROM THE ***DUST.***

GONE! THE BLACK KNIGHT... ***VANISHED*** LIKE A VISION!

SURELY THIS KNIGHT WAS A ***MIRAGE***, A VISION, A TEST AGAINST MY SOUL

THE THOUGHT OF BEING RIVEN ***SENSELESS*** BY THE BLACK MOOR'S SWORD STROKE FESTERED LIKE A POISON IN MY HEART.

I PUT ASIDE THE BITTER MEMORY INTO A SECRET PLACE.

A DAY'S JOURNEY BROUGHT ME AT LENGTH UNTO THE SHINING SPIRES OF ***CASTILLE.***

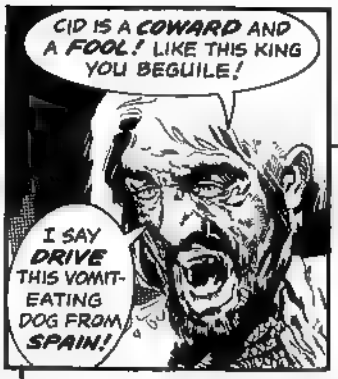
CID! YOU HAVE ***NEWS?***

SIRE.. PENA CADIELA HAS ***FALLEN. MOORS*** ARE LOOSE AND ***DEATH'S*** AFOOT.

AND ***WHERE*** WAS BRAVE ***CID*** WHILE CADIELA WAS ***BUTCHERED?***

LAZING IN THE LUXURIES OF ALPHONSO'S COURTS, WHISPERING ***NOTHINGS*** INTO THE KING'S EAR?

THE MIGHTY CID IS A MYTH! THERE IS NO PROTECTOR. ONLY A WORM WHO COVETS THE KING'S COURTS WHILE BRAVE SPANIARDS DIE FOR WANT OF REINFORCEMENTS.


CID IS A COWARD AND A FOOL! LIKE THIS KING YOU BEGUILE!
I SAY DRIVE THIS VOMIT-EATING DOG FROM SPAIN!

TREASON! DON URRACA WILL ANSWER TO ME FOR THESE WORDS!

URRACA THREW HIS GLOVE AT MY FEET. ONCE MORE WAS CID OFFERED CHALLENGE.

THESE JEALOUS, CORRUPT NOBLES WERE AS VULTURES WAITING UPON MY ENTRAILS TO FEAST.
MY PATIENCE WAS TOO THIN TO OVER-LOOK URRACA'S SPITE.
I TOOK UP THE GLOVE.

RAVE ON, URRACA! EACH WORD SEALS YOUR DOOM!
COWARDLY CID! KNOW THE FURY OF A PATRIOT'S AXE!

TOO LONG AT COURT MAKE STRONG THE MOUTH AND WEAK THE STEEL... TRAITOR!
SKITT
NUUUHHH!

NOW! WHAT FAT NOBLE WOULD NEXT SLANDER THE CID OR SPIT UPON THE HONOR OF ALPHONSO?

CID! YOU SHAME YOUR KING!
WHAT HONOR HAVE YOU SAVED AND WHAT HONOR HAVE YOU SMEARED IN POOLING RED UPON THIS THRONE ROOM FLOOR?
URRACA WAS A FOOL! BUT BY KILLING HIM BEFORE MY VERY EYES, YOU ARE THE TRAITOR!
MY HAND WOULD HAVE WAVED BANISHMENT FOR URRACA'S ANGRY WORDS, BUT YOUR HAND WAVED DEATH!
IS CID'S HAND GREATER THAN THE KINGS? GREATER EVEN THAN GOD'S?
MY OWN CID! YOU HAVE SPLATTERED ME WITH INNOCENT BLOOD! OFFENDED KING, GOD AND SPAIN!
MAJESTY, I KNEEL BEGGING FORGIVENESS OF ALL SPAIN.
IF I AM GUILTY, THAN I AM GUILTY OF BEARING A TOO INCORRUPTABLE HONOR GUILTY OF LOVING TOO DEARLY MY KING AND COUNTRY.
UPON MY KNEES, BEFORE THIS ASSEMBLED COURT WHICH I HAVE DISHONORED, IN HUMILITY YOUR CID BEGS TO LET GOD DECREE MY INNOCENCE OR GUILT!
RODRIGUEZ DIAZ DE VIVAR, YOU ARE A MAN OF INFINITE HEART. AT TIMES I LOATHE YOU... BUT ALWAYS I RESPECT YOU
PERHAPS, WERE YOU THE KING AND I THE CID, T'WOULD BE ME UPON MY KNEES, BLOODY-HANDED BEFORE YOU. WOULD YOU FORGIVE ME?
I PRAY I WOULD. LET GOD BE JUDGE, MAJESTY.
THEN I PRAY GOD BE A MERCIFUL JUDGE.

LET THE MOORS SEND THEIR CHAMPION AGAINST ME. THAT WILL BE GOD'S TEST.
IF SPANISH BLOOD WILL BE SPILT, T'WILL ONLY BE MINE... IF GOD DOES JUDGE ME GUILTY.
I WILL BRING HONOR HOME WITH ME AS ALPHONSO'S CHOSEN WARRIOR... OR RETURN ACROSS MY HORSE!
NOBLEMEN FROM ALPHONSO'S COURT WERE DISPATCHED TO THE GATES OF CALAHORRA, WHERE THE MOORS LAY READY TO BESEIGE THE FAIR SPANISH CITY.
WORD WAS RELAYED OF THE CID'S DECISION TO BATTLE THE MOOR CHAMPION.
...AND THE MOORISH EMIRS CHOSE THEIR FAVORITE KNIGHT TO MEET EL CID UPON THE FIELD OF HONOR.
I HAD COME TO WAR. SPAIN HAD COME TO WATCH. AND GOD HAD COME TO JUDGE!
TO THE BATTLE'S VICTOR WOULD GO TO THE CITY OF CALAHORRA ITSELF!

OF A SUDDEN THE ENEMY WARRIOR RODE TOWARD ME AND MY SOUL STOOD STUNNED IN HOARFROST!
THE BLACK KNIGHT! THE VISION!
WHAT MADNESS HERE?
HOLD, SPANIARD!

I AM THE CHAMPION OF CALAHORRA!
COME TO ME!
MY VISION BECAME INSUBSTANTIAL WITH ICE-RIVEN DREAD AS THE MOOR LEVELED A STRANGELY FAMILIAR CHARGE.

HEAVEN AND EARTH MELDED AND ALL TIME HUNG SUSPENDED.
WE MET IN CLANGOROUS FURY, HIS STRENGTH AS INHUMAN AS BEFORE

SENSES REELING I SAW FOR AN INSTANT MY BODY RENT, TORN IN TWAIN... ANOTHER VISION GLIMPSED IN MY SOUL'S EYES.
AND THEN I WAS REELING... FALLING... VICTIM OF MY ADVERSARY'S FIRST DEATHLY BLOW.

THE STYGIAN KNIGHT WHEELED AND STEERED, HIS STEEL GUIDING FOR MY HEART.

I GLANCED CLEAR OF THE MOORISH LANCE, BREAKING BOTH MINE AND HIS IN DOING
SWORDS THEN CLASHED AND WE TORE EACH OTHER TO THE GROUND.

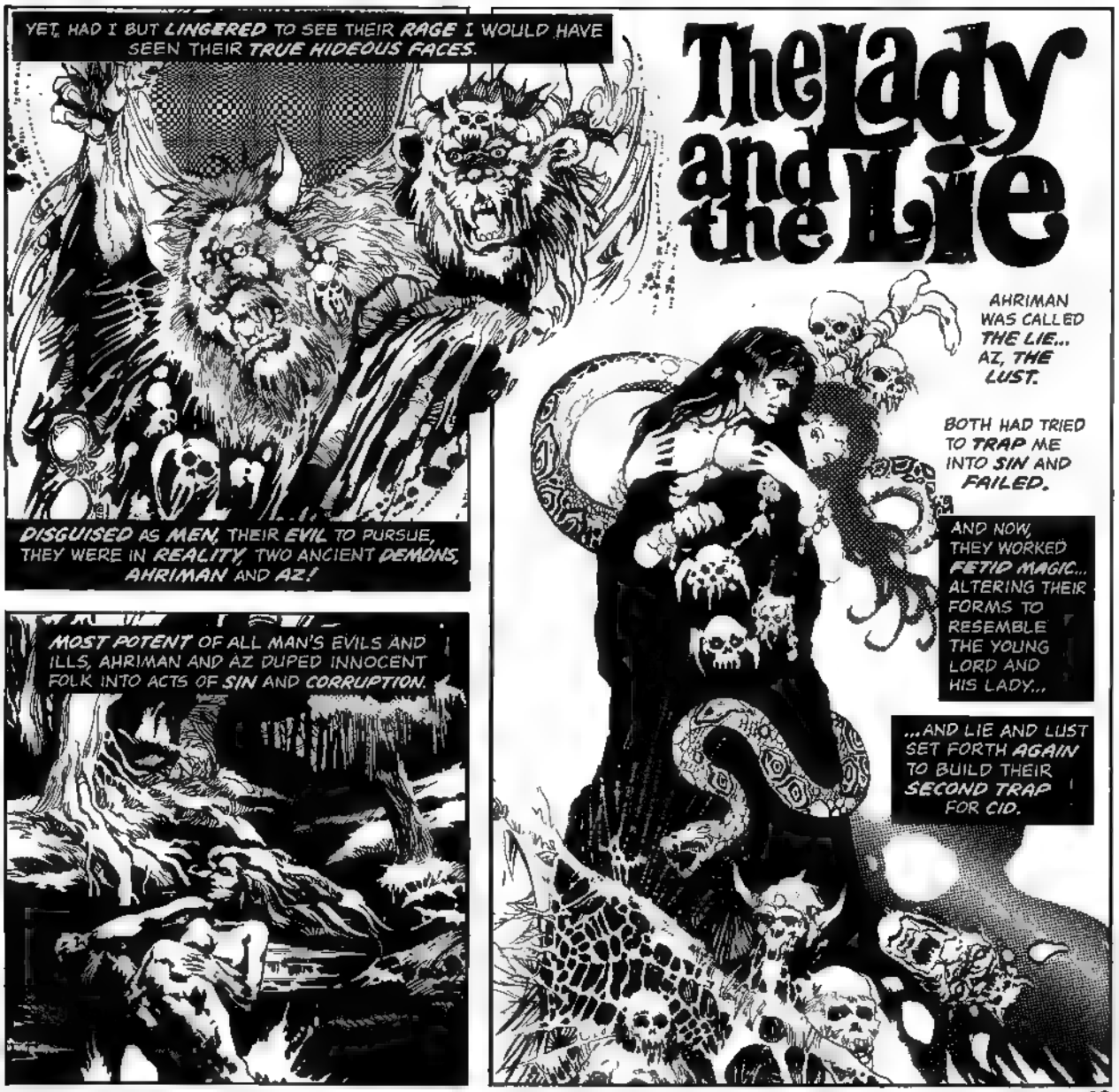
WE GROVELED IN THE DUST, THEN CAME TO OUR FEET, THE MOOR STEELED HIMSELF, AS DID I.
THEN, OF A SUDDEN, FIRE WITHIN MY SOUL BEGAN TO MELT THE FEAR FROM MY HEART. FOR I KNEW! I REMEMBERED HOW TO FIGHT HIM!
COME TO ME

I AM COME

I REMEMBERED IN THE VISION... IN OUR FIRST BATTLE... HOW I SOUGHT TO DELIVER MY DEATH STROKE.
I REMEMBERED HOW HE PARRIED THE BLOW. IT WOULD NOT BE SO AGAIN.
I READIED. I FEIGNED THE STROKE.
HE TOOK THE BAIT. THE MOOR COUNTERED THE BLOW... REALIZING TOO LATE CID HAD CHEATED HIM WITH A FALSE THRUST!
HE REELED OFF BALANCE! MY SECOND THRUST WAS NOT FALSE!

I COULD GO PEACEFULLY FROM HERE NOW, MY SPAIN TO PROTECT... KNOWING THAT CID WAS PROTECTED TOO... BY A POWER MUCH GREATER THAN KINGS OR ARMIES OR STEEL.
AND IT T'WAS DONE. EL CID STOOD INNOCENT OF TREASON... BY THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD.

THE LOT OF A SOLDIER IS NOT ALWAYS KEPT TO THAT OF THE SWORD.
I HAD BEEN IN ATTENDANCE TO LONG TIRESOME AFFAIRS OF STATE IN FARAWAY ANDALUSIA. AN ERRAND FOR MY KING ALPHONSO.
TAKING A LONG PLEASANT ROUTE THROUGH MY FEY FROUGHT SPANISH COUNTRYSIDE, I TARRIED IN QUIET MEDITATION AS I RODE TO MY HOME IN BURGOS.
THIS LONG ROUTE LED THROUGH A QUEER PLACE... WHICH NEVER BEFORE HAD I SEEN.
AND UPON THIS ROAD I CHANCED TO MEET GRIM WAYFARERS.
HIE! LORD! EL CID! GREETINGS!
LOOK DOWN THERE, LORD.
I LOOKED, AND BEHELD TWO YOUTHS AT FROLIC. AND I SMILED AT THEIR PEACE AND INNOCENCE.
WHAT CHANCE FOR PLEASANT SPORT, LORD!
WERE I EL CID, BRAVE KNIGHT AND LORD... PROTECTOR... I WOULD MAKE MY SPORT UPON THESE TWO.
WHAT FUN TO BUTCHER THE YOUNG MAN TO DEATH... AND TASTE THE MUSK OF HIS LADY'S MOISTING CHARMS.
T'WOULD BE THE RIGHT OF CID.



PLOT: GERRY BOUDREAU / DIALOGUE: BUDD LEWIS / ART: GONZALO MAYO

THE LIE AND THE LUST RACED AHEAD OF ME, TAKING COVER BEHIND THEIR DISGUISES.
UPON APPROACHING I BUT SAW THE LOVELY YOUNG COUPLE, AND NOTHING AMISS.
SHH. HERE COMES THIS FOOL.
SEE HOW I SHALL BEGUILE HIM.
AHH, COME MY LORD, AND LET ME SOOTHE THEE WITH MY GRACES.
WOMAN? WHAT IS THIS?
HA! SEDUCING MY LADY BEFORE MY OFFENDED EYES?
FOR THIS I WILL CUT OUT THE CID'S PUTRID GUTS!
AND AT WONDER! THE YOUTH SET UPON ME!
BUT ONE STRIKE AND HE WAS LAID LOW!
KILL ME, COWARDLY CID! MURDER ME!
YOUNG ASS. GET UP AND GO. I HAVE NO FIGHT FOR YOU.
THUS I BLITHELY CONTINUED MY JOURNEY...UNMINDFUL THAT TWICE HAD I THWARTED THE DEMONS' ATTEMPTS TO HAVE MY SOUL.
SURELY THEY FLEW INTO WANTON RAGE AT THEIR FAILINGS.

DAMN BE CID! TOO PURE A PREY IS HE!
A POX ON HIM! LET US WORK OUR MAGICS ELSEWHERE!
NOW AHRIMAN, CALLED LIE, IS THE GREAT DECEIVER. HE IS EVIL IN EMBODIMENT, BUT CANNOT FORCE HUMANS TO OBEY HIS WILL. THEY MUST TAKE THE CHOICE TO DO SO. BUT ONCE THEY ACCEPT HIS TEMPTINGS, THEY ARE FOREVER COMMITTED TO THE LIE!
THUS, LIE FOUND ANOTHER VICTIM TO TEMPT. A TRUSTING YOUNG GIRL.
IN BUT THE TWINKLE OF AN EYE, LIE AND LUST CHANGED THEMSELVES INTO VISIONS OF THE YOUNG LADY'S FIANCEE...AND A WHORE.
THUS THE LADY SAW HER BETROTHED COVERING A HARLOT.
IN A RAGE OF PASSION, HURT AND MADNESS, SHE CREPT UPON THE LOVERS...
...AND SLEW BOTH HER LOVER AND THE TART HE LAID WITH.
WHEN IT WAS DONE, I HEARD HER AGONIZED WEEPING AND WENT TO SEE OF IT.

THE DEMONS SCREAMED JOYFUL TRIUMPH. THE LADY WAS TRICKED INTO COMMITTING AN ACT OF EVIL AND UNWITTINGLY DELIVERED HER SOUL INTO DARKSOME DEMON HANDS.

DEMONS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THIS TEARFUL GIRL?
GO AWAY, MAGGOT! I AM THE LIE! AND WE HAVE DECEIVED OURSELVES AN INNOCENT SOUL! HERS!

LIE AND LUST! THEN IT WAS YOU WHO TRIED TO HAVE MY SOUL! I THOUGHT AS MUCH!

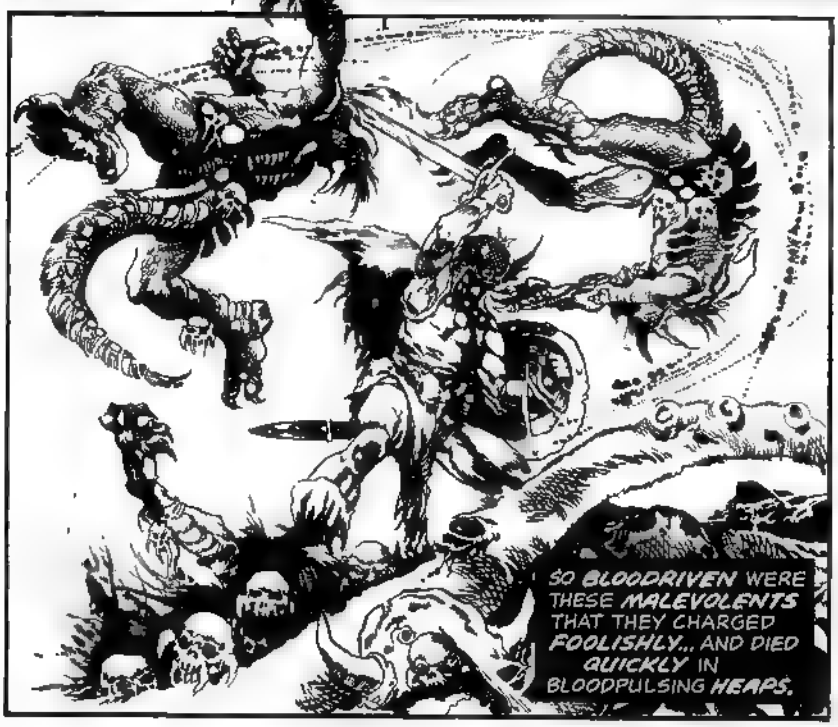
YOU NOW HAVE THE GIRL'S SOUL! BUT I WILL WIN IT BACK! DAMN YOU!

I SWEPT TOWARD THE TWO BEASTS TO SLAY THEM BUT...

...EVEN ERE MY BLADE COULD BITE, THEIR MAGICS BLINDED ME AGAIN!
THREE GIRLS! WHICH TWO SHALL I SMITE?

TO SHOW WE ARE OF SPORTING NATURE, CID.. WE OFFER A TRADE.
TO RETRIEVE THE LADY'S SOUL, YOU MUST FOLLOW US TO HELL... AND FIGHT FOR IT!
DONE!

INSTANTLY WAS I TRANSPORTED INTO SWIRLING NETHER REALM. THE BRACE OF DEMONS LAUGHED AND MOCKED ME, KNOWING THAT MY OWN SOUL WOULD BE FORFEIT... SHOULD I LOSE THIS HORRID GAMING.
IN A FLASH WE NEARED THE CHAR-BLACKENED GATES OF DAMNATION. AND MY EARS HEARD THE LADY WHIMPERING.
MY VISION SWIRLED...


SO BLOODRIVEN WERE THESE MALEVOLENTS THAT THEY CHARGED FOOLISHLY... AND DIED QUICKLY IN BLOODPULSING HEAPS.

I HAD WON THE FIRST WAR...
BUT I REALIZED THESE GAMES WERE BUT TO BEGIN THE FRAY!

ENOUGH OF THESE VERMIN! WHERE IS THIS CRAVEN LIE AND COWARD LUST?
HERE, MY CID, WE WAIT TO SERVE THEE!
THEY STOOD UPON THE EDGE OF A GREAT, DEEP CHAMBER... THE DEN OF HIDEOUS CHAOTICS... VICIOUS MONSTERS CALLED KRAYLIES!

LIE WAS READY TO THROW ME INTO THE KRAYLIES PIT... BUT QUICKLY I REVERSED THE TABLES!
YOU GO FIRST, DEMONS!

IS THIS THE DOOR I MUST OPEN TO RELEASE THE KRAYLIES UNTO YOU?
CID! NO! PLEASE RELEASE THEM NOT!

I AM SORRY, LIE! TOO LATE! SEE? ALREADY THE KRAYLIES COME FOR YOU!
DAMN YOU, CID! WE SHALL BE RENT TO PIECES!

MAIMING AND KILLING WITHOUT RHYME OR REASON, THE KRAYLIES WERE THE DEATH-DOGS OF HELL. EVEN AZ AND AHRIMAN FEARED THEIR GODLESS CHAOS!
YET I HAD TO LAUGH AS THE DEMON-DOGS SET BLOODILY UPON THE LIE, THE LUST AND EACH OTHER. AH, IT WAS EAT OR BE EATEN!

THE BATTLE RAGED AND AT LENGTH STILLED. YET STANDING WERE AZ AND AHRIMAN ONLY. GASHED TO THE CORE, TORN AND RIPPED, ENTRAILS EXPOSED AND PARTS SHREDDED AWAY.

I REALIZED, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE ALL TOO FALLIBLE, THEY WERE POWERFULLY IMMORTAL.

THE LIE AND THE LUST COULD NEVER BE DESTROYED. FOR THEY ARE THE PRINCIPLES OF EVIL. AND, WITHOUT THEM, NOTHING COULD EXIST. FOR WITHOUT EVIL... THERE CAN BE NO GOOD

ONE MUST HAVE THE OTHER.

BUT...THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CID...OR THE GIRL. NOT THIS DAY.

WHAT DESPERATE FIGHTERS DEMONS BE. WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

I HAVE LEARNED NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE THE CUNNING OF EL CID...OR TO THINK THERE IS WEAKNESS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS!

I HAVE LEARNED THAT I'D RATHER NOT HAVE CID OR HIS LADY IF THIS IS THE MISERY I WOULD TOIL OF IT.

GO THEN, CID, TAKING THE MEWLING WOMAN WITH YOU!

BUT YOU WILL SEE ME AGAIN. IN EVERY CORNER OF THE EARTH... WHERE THERE ARE SOULS TO BE MAD...THERE WILL I BE!

NEVER WILL MEN REBUKE THE LIE... UNTIL MY WEB COVERS YOUR ROTTENING EARTH!

UNTIL ANOTHER TIME... CURSE YOU!

REMEMBER, CID... EVIL IS MAN'S GREATEST PRODUCT. AND GOOD IS BUT A BY-PRODUCT!

AND I TOOK OUT MY LADY FROM THAT VILE PLACE.

I PREPARED MYSELF TO AGAIN MEET UP WITH THE LIE... COME WHAT GUISE HE MAY USE. FOR EVIL HAS MANY TOOLS, BUT A LIE IS THE HANDLE THAT FITS THEM ALL!

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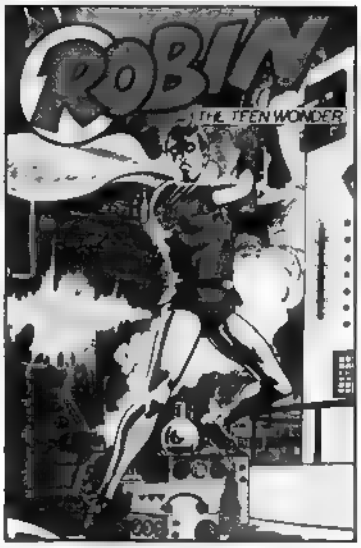

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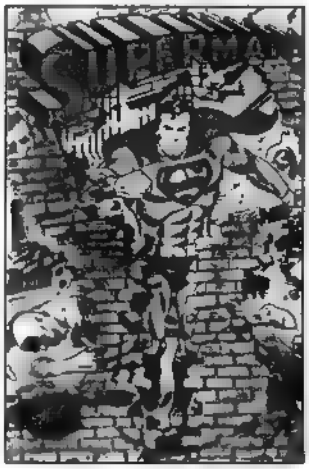

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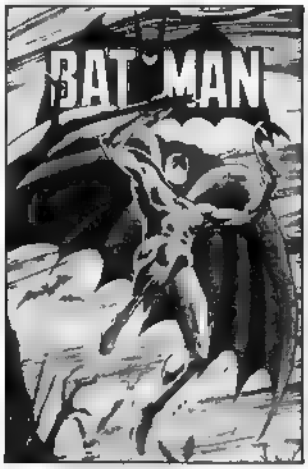

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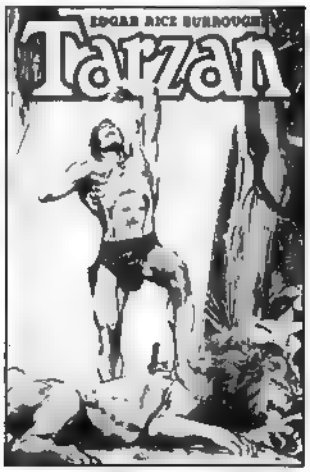

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PLOT: JEFF ROVIN / DIALOGUE: BUDD LEWIS / ART: GONZALO MAYO

THE MOST MAGNIFICENT GIFT WAS MADE TO BOTH THE KING AND MYSELF. IT WOULD HAVE CAUSED MORE ILL FEELINGS TO HAVE REFUSED. SO WITH NO CHOICE... WE MADE OURSELVES ACCEPT WITH UTTER, STAMMERING, BLUSHING DELIGHT!
ARIAS SHE CALLED HERSELF AND ARIAS SERVED LOVINGLY HER NEW KING... WHILE SERVING LOVE TO HER CID.
SO QUICKLY DID ARIAS BECOME ENAMOURED WITH ME, THAT I COULD DO LITTLE MORE THAN BECOME DEEPLY ENTRANCED WITH HER.
SO ALIVE WITH MUSKING, FLOWING WOMANLY PASSION WAS SHE, I BEGAN TO TASTE LOVE ANEW, VIRGINALLY, BLITHELY.
I CRADLED IN HER SWELLING BREASTS, I NESTLED IN HER WARM ROUNDING THIGHS. EL CID WAS BUT A MOONTOUCHED PLOWBOY IN HER GUIDING HANDS.

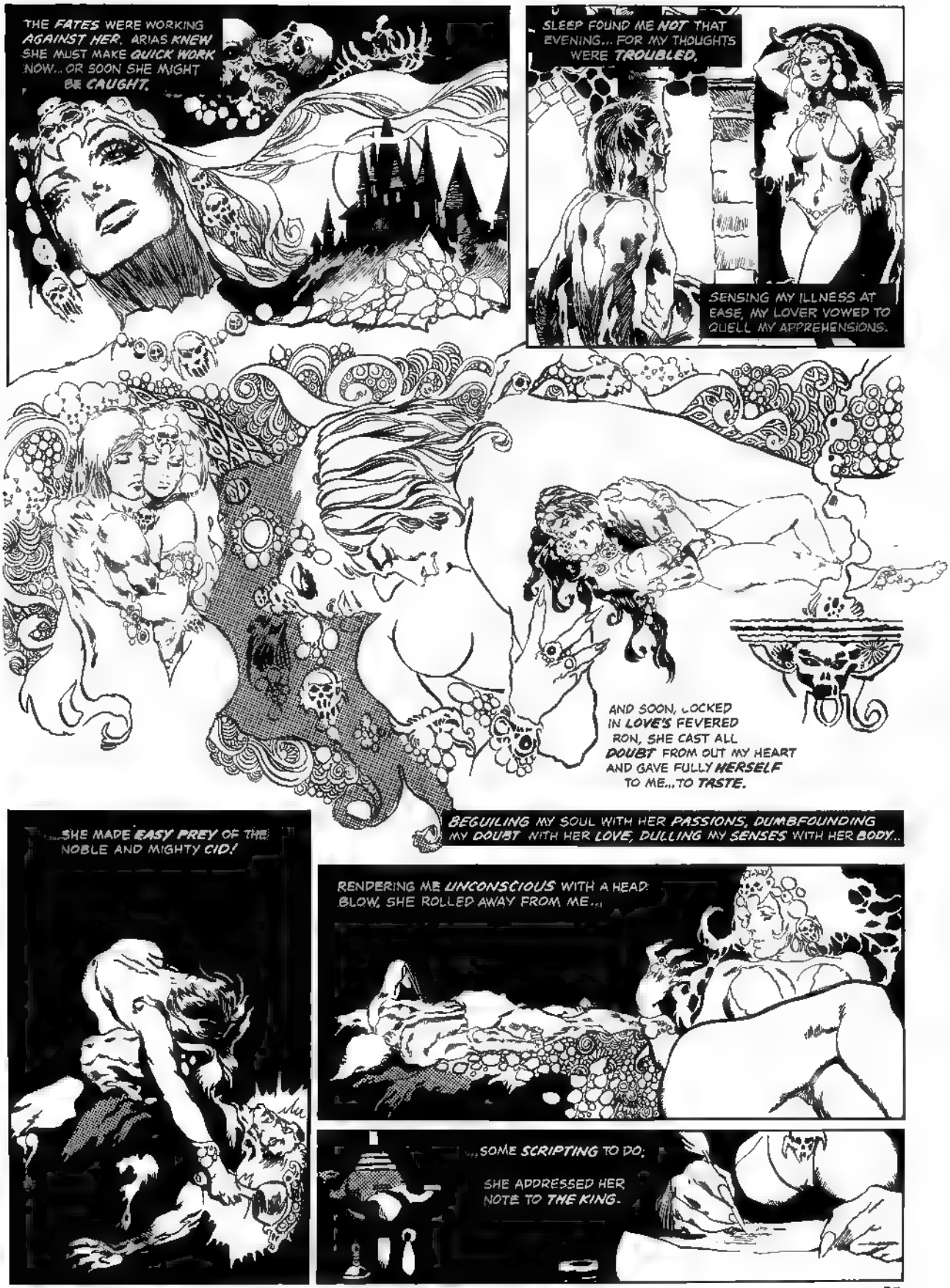
DELIRIOUS DAYS AND NIGHTS OF DRAINING LOVE-MAKING DULLED MY SENSES. I DID NOT ONCE FEEL HER STIR AWAY FROM MY SLEEPING SIDE...
...AS SHE STOLE INTO THE ICING NIGHT.

WITH HER, SHE TOOK A SMALL JEWELED FRUITING KNIFE FROM MY TABLE
STEALING INTO A MANGER, ARIAS SELECTED A SUCKLING CALF, GRAPPLED IT BENEATH HER STRONG THIGHS...
...AND SLIT ITS THROAT.
IT'S DYING BAWL GURGLED MUTELY IN A FROTHING RED.
THE BLOODIED DAGGER SHE STOLE BACK INTO MY CHAMBERS, THERE HIDING IT AWAY.
AND I, CAUGHT UP IN LOVE'S HEADY LUST, DWELT UNAWARES.
ATTENDING THE KING'S COURT, ARIAS SPUN MAGIC TALES OF ANCIENT LORE AND VERSE BROUGHT WITH HER FROM THE STYGIAN HISTORIES OF THE DARKSOME MOORS.
THE CAPTIVATING ENCHANTRESS HELD BOTH THE ATTENTION AND IMAGINATION OF CID AND ALPHONSO AS SHE WOVE HER WEBS OF DELIGHTFUL DECEIT.
THAT EVENING, STILL OBLIVIOUS TO IMPENDING DANGERS, I ATTENDED MY NIGHTLY VESPERS IN THE CHAPEL.
I HAD BUT KNEELED IN QUIET LASSITUDE, BEGINNING MY PRAYERS WHEN

...MY MIND'S EYES TEEMED WITH ETHEREAL VISIONS ENOUGH TO SMITE MY HEART WITH PANIC.

VISIONS OF ARIAS DID MY HEART BEHOLD, PRANCING MADLY BEFORE PAGAN ALTERS. IMAGES OF HOSTILE, DREAD UNFOLDINGS.

AND THEN, THE VISION OF BLESSED MARY, SMEARED WITH OOZING BLOOD, HER FROCKS STAINED RED. THE HOLY VIRGIN GRASPED NOT A CHRIST CHILD, BUT A DRIPPING DAGGER, AND HER FACE...BECAME THAT OF GORE STREAKED ARIAS!


THE FATES WERE WORKING AGAINST HER. ARIAS KNEW SHE MUST MAKE QUICK WORK NOW... OR SOON SHE MIGHT BE CAUGHT.
SLEEP FOUND ME NOT THAT EVENING... FOR MY THOUGHTS WERE TROUBLED.
SENSING MY ILLNESS AT EASE, MY LOVER VOWED TO QUELL MY APPREHENSIONS.
AND SOON, LOCKED IN LOVE'S FEVERED RON, SHE CAST ALL DOUBT FROM OUT MY HEART AND GAVE FULLY HERSELF TO ME...TO TASTE.
BEGUILING MY SOUL WITH HER PASSIONS, DUMBFOUNDING MY DOUBT WITH HER LOVE, DULLING MY SENSES WITH HER BODY...
...SHE MADE EASY PREY OF THE NOBLE AND MIGHTY CID!
RENDERING ME UNCONSCIOUS WITH A HEAD BLOW, SHE ROLLED AWAY FROM ME...
...SOME SCRIPTING TO DO.
SHE ADDRESSED HER NOTE TO THE KING.

THIS NOTE IS FROM MY CID.
HE ASKS ME TO HASTEN TO HIS CHAMBERS WHERE HE WILL DIVULGE IN PRIVATE A PLOT AGAINST MY LIFE.

EARLIER CID HAD A VISION. I SHOULD TAKE CARE.
GARZA, GO TO CID IN MY PLACE. BRING HIM BACK HERE.
SI, MY KING.

THANK GOD FOR THE WILE OF MY KING. FOR HAD HE GONE AS PER THE NOTE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HE...

...INSTEAD OF POOR GARZA...

...TO FIND DEATH IN THE CORRIDOR...

...BY THE BITE OF THE ASSASSIN'S KNIFE!
AT ONCE ARIAS SAW SHE HAD MURDERED THE WRONG MAN... AND NOW SHE WOULD SOON BE EXPOSED!

IT IS THE DEAD FORM OF GARZA! HIS THROAT HAS BEEN CUT.
INFORM THE KING.

MY LORD, WE FOUND THIS GIRL, SHE MURDERED DON GARZA. SHE SAYS EL CID PUT HER UP TO IT
NO...OH NO. BRING MY CID TO ME.

AT ONCE I WAS SUMMONED, MY HEAD STILL REELING IN PAIN.
RODRIGUEZ DIAZ... MY CID, YOU ARE ACCUSED OF PLOTTING TO MURDER YOUR KING.
YOU SENT ME A NOTE, CALLING ME TO YOUR ROOM. GARZA WENT IN MY STEAD,
THIS WOMAN KILLED HIM THINKING HIM ME. WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY OF THIS?

THE EVIDENCE IS PLAIN, ALPHONSO. CID IS JEALOUS AND GREEDY, WITH YOU DEAD... HE RULES!
WE ALL AGREE! NOW PRONOUNCE DEATH FOR CID AND HIS WHORE!

THERE IS NO LOVE LOST AMONG THE LORDS OF THE COURT. THEIR HATE FOR ME IS REKNOWN.
BUT, ALPHONSO, YOU ARE NOT JUDGE. NOT THEY.

MY HEART SIDES WITH CID. THOUGH WE FOUND A BLOODY DAGGER CONCEALED IN HIS ROOM.
STILL, JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED.
HEREWITH FOLLOWS A TRIAL... CONCLUDING IN INNOCENCE OR DEATH!

ALPHONSO SENT A MESSAGE TO THE EMIR OF ARAGON. IT SAID, "THE MISSION IS COMPLETED!" HE SIGNED THE NAME OF ARIAS.
THE KING KNEW THAT IF, IN TRUTH, THE EMIR WAS BEHIND THIS BLOOD PLOT, AS HE FELT WAS SO, THE EMIR WOULD MARCH HIS ARMIES TO RECLAIM LOST ARAGON.
IF THE GIRL WAS NOT INVOLVED, THE EMIR WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE'S MEANING AND WOULD TAKE NO ACTION AT ALL. BUT THIS WOULD PROVE CID TO BE GUILTY... AND MY NECK WOULD PART ON THE BLOCK!
AT ONCE, ALPHONSO MOUNTED KNIGHTS, MYSELF, AND THE GIRL, ARIAS, AND JOURNEYED TO SEE WHAT THE EMIR WOULD DO.
MY LIFE HINGED UPON A MOORISH KING'S WHIM!

THE MESSAGE WAS SENT. I HELD MY BREATH, BUT I NEEDN'T HAVE WAITED TOO LONG!

THE EMIR DID COME! WITHIN BUT TWO HOURS! HIS HOSTS GATHERING BEHIND HIM...
...TO RECAPTURE A LOST KINGDOM!

ALPHONSO DECREED MY INNOCENCE BY HANDING ME BACK MY SOLDIERS!

AND LIKE GOD'S ARMIES OF DEATH, WE RODE UPON THE MOORS... 'TIL MOOR BLOOD STAINED UP TO OUR STIRRUPS.
THUS VICTORY AGAIN... WAS SPAIN'S.

AND ALPHONSO RODE IN THRICE PLEASURE.
TWICE SMITING THE MOORS... ONCE FREEING HIS CID!

COLD WINTER'S ONSLAUGHT FROZE WRAITH-LIKE WAR CARNAGE... AND BATTLE CAME SOON TO ITS END.

THE GIRL! ARIAS! WHERE IS SHE NOW?

QUICK, LORD! SHE RIDES FOR ARAGON! YOU CAN STILL MAKE GOOD YOUR REVENGE!

THE TREACHERY WAS FOUND OUT. CID WAS SEEN BLAMELESS. BUT THE ASSASSIN SOUGHT ESCAPE FROM MY WRATH.

I COMMIT HER TO GOD'S MERCY. SHE WOULDN'T WAIT TO HEAR MINE.

MY POOR ARIAS. THE ASSASSIN IS DEAD.

IT IS BUT RIGHT THAT WE FORGIVE FREELY, BUT FORGET RARELY. I WILL NOT BE REVENGED. THIS I OWE TO MY ENEMY.

I WILL REMEMBER THIS I OWE TO MYSELF.

WE PARDON ONLY AS LONG AS WE LOVE.

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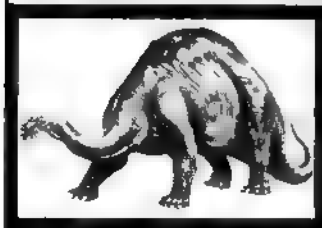
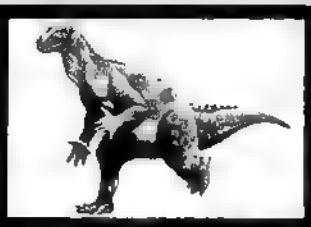


BRONTOSAURUS #2442



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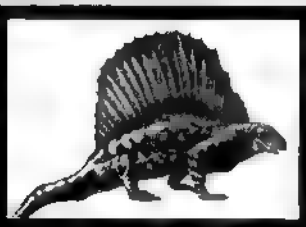

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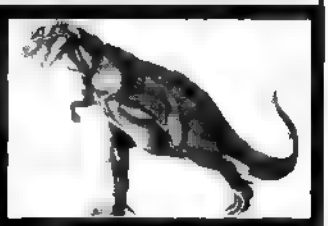

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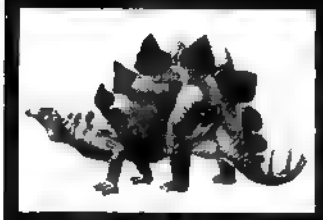

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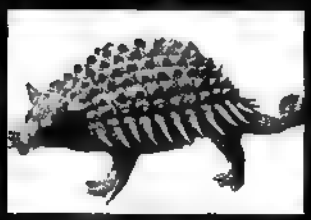

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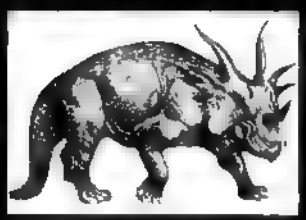

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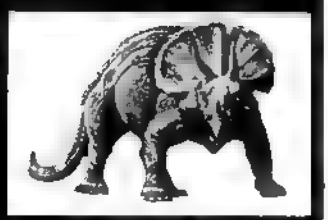

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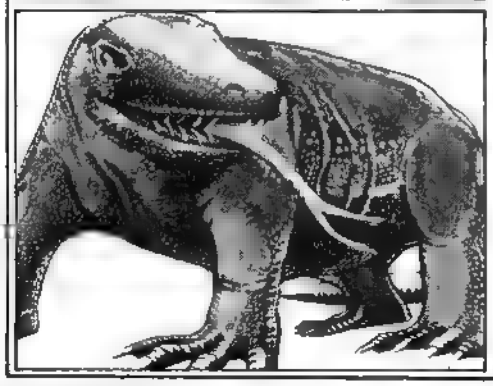

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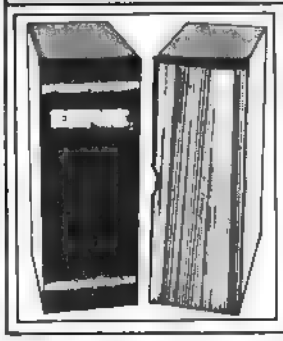
You asked for it, and here they are! These magnificently burnished Gold Finish Rings cover HALF your finger! They are specially made for us by a quality jewelry manufacturer & are adjustable to fit any finger. Guaranteed to become Collector's items! The faces of CREEPY & EERIE are over 1-1/2" long, majestically sculptured in fine detail. You'll be proud to wear these costly-looking fine rings for any occasion. Refer to the coupon last page of this magazine to order. #2610 UNCLE CREEPY RING $1.25, and #2611 COUSIN EERIE RING $1.25!

SAVE YOUR EERIE



BACK ISSUES IN CUSTOM-DESIGNED LIBRARY CASES!

You must know how valuable Warren magazines are. You know how back issues increase in desirability and price as the supply of mint copies dwindles. So, you serious collectors of our books must be pleased to know that we're bringing out a whole fantastic line of CUSTOM DESIGNED LEATHERETTE FINISH LIBRARY CASES. Each one holds a one-year run of this, your favorite imaginative horror mag, and keeps that run in superb condition. And has our title in gold type right on the spine! Fantastic! Order today!

This ERRIE LIBRARY CASE features a Navy-Blue spine and black leatherette body. #2635 EERIE LIBRARY CASE $4.95

EERIE FAN CLUB

BADGE

COUSIN EERIE'S OWN FAN CLUB AND IT'S BETTER THAN THE BIG CREEP's!! Here are the gruesome Goodies you get when you join Cousin Eerie's Fan Club: A magnificent PORTRAIT of Cousin Eerie by horror comics genius Richard Corben, ready for framing. PLUS the Official full-color Eerie CLUB BADGE (high quality, heavy duty metal) PLUS your Official wallet-size Eerie MEMBERSHIP CARD (individually & personally numbered)! As soon as you receive your terrorific treasure trove, you'll chortle with glee: the items are that magnificently gruesome! You'll wear your ghastly Cousin Eerie Badge & carry the monstrous Membership Card with pride! All 3 of these enervating Eerie-ish items for ONLY $2.00. Send NOW!

MEMBERSHIP CARD

8-1/2"x11" PORTRAIT

PATCHES

3-INCH CREEPY AND EERIE EMBLEMS IN COLOR!

You love dear old Uncle Creepy and charming Cousin Eerie. Now you can wear your heart on your sleeve—or anywhere else for that matter. Get these bright multicolored cloth patches, embroidered with the likenesses of two of your favorite people. Sew them on your jacket, jeans, T-shirt, cap or anyplace. Patches are three inches tall. Eerie patch is aqua with green face. Creepy patch, orange with yellow face. Heavy duty, machine washable, satin bound. Buy a batch! #2621 CREEPY PATCH $1.00/ #2623 EERIE PATCH $1.00.

SUPER-DELUXE SPOOKTACULAR CREEPY & EERIE MASKS!

UNCLE CREEPY DELUXE MASK

Specially made by Don Post! Finely executed with Creepish Craftsmanship to look just like our old Ugly Unc! High quality latex rubber and a ghastly, ghostly and realistic thatch of pale hair to top him off! A Morbid Masterwork! Order #2544 UNCLE CREEPY DELUXE MASK $14.95

COUSIN EERIE DELUXE MASK

Heavy, durable, whole-headed mask of our half-wit fiend! COUSIN EERIE is Scarily Sculpted in high quality latex rubber, with some hellishly red and realistic hair atop his hand-painted face! A Clammy Classic! Order #2545 COUSIN EERIE DELUXE MASK $14.95

PLUS TWO TYPES CREEPY & EERIE BUDGET MASKS VINYL & RUBBER

BOTH BUDGET MASKS CAST FROM SAME MOLD! ONLY ONE IS VINYL, ONE IS RUBBER!

Both the vinyl & the rubber Budget masks, represented above, look alike, but the vinyl is sturdier, more heavy-duty. Both these makes of mask cover the entire head, too. Each is a bargain! You'll probably want all six: Deluxe, Vinyl & Rubber, to hold your CREEPY & EERIE portrait!

#2566 CREEPY VINYL MASK $8.95
#2567 EERIE VINYL MASK $8.95

#2509 CREEPY RUBBER MASK $4.95
#2510 EERIE RUBBER MASK $4.95

HERE ARE 3 FABULOUS SETS OF CREEPY-EERIE MASKS!

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

PLANET OF THE APES FLEXIBLE FIGURES

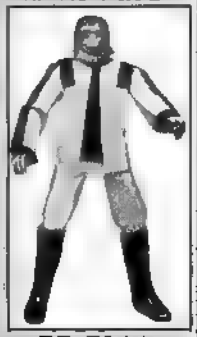
new action figures 8" tall they move!

ZIRA #24116 $4.75

CORNELIUS #24115 $4.75

ASTRONAUT #24114 $4.75

GENERAL URSUS #24117 $4.75



DR. ZAIUS #24113 $4.75

PLANET OF THE APES PLASTIC WIND-UP WALKING DOLLS

These are perhaps two of the greatest little robots since Metropolis! 3 inches tall and ready to go! Just wind the plastic key in their sides and off they trundle, foot over foot. Dr. Zaius with his flaming hair and blue suit and sombre Cornelius with black hair and brown costume marching side by side. $1.39 each!

CORNELIUS #2692 DR. ZAIUS #2691

PLANET OF THE APES

PLASTIC HOBBY KITS!

Now there are six great PLANET OF THE APES hobby kits. General Ursus and General Aldo, the warrior apes, Dr. Zaius, the sage orangutan from PLANET OF THE APES, Caesar, the first ruler of the monkey world, and Cornelius and Zira, loving couple from PLANET OF THE APES. Together, they form a complete cast of the Apes' Series most important characters. All the kits have snap-together parts, with movable arms and legs, and heads that turn. So there's no messing with glue or paste! Paint them according to the cover illustration. Each kit comes complete with display stand and setting as shown on the box. All are kits you will be proud to display and build.

DR. ZAIUS #2441 $3.50

CORNELIUS #2440 $3.50

GENERAL ALDO #2468 $3.50

GENERAL URSUS #2467 $3.50

ORDER EERIE BACK ISSUES!

HAVE YOU READ GRAY MORROW'S "WARDROBE OF MONSTERS?" JEFF JONES' "TO SLAY A DRAGON?" ALEX TOTH'S "THE STALKERS?" WHAT ABOUT ANGELO TORRES' "HOWLING SUCCESS?" GENE COLON DID A FINE JOB ON "TO PAY THE PIPER!" ESTEBAN MAROTO'S ENTIRE "DAX" SERIES WAS SPECTACULAR! AND JOSE ORTIZ' "JACKASS" SERIES WAS GRAPHIC MADNESS! AS WAS AURALEON'S "JUST PASSING THROUGH!" PAUL NEARY'S "DERELICT" WAS A FINE SCI-FI CLASSIC. NEAL ADAMS' "VOODOO DRUMS" WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD! AL WILLIAMSON'S "THE LIGHTHOUSE" WAS A REAL TERROR TALE, AS WAS "CURSE OF THE VAMPIRE" BY MARTIN SALVADOR AND JOSE BEA'S "HEAD SHOP." ISIDRO MONES' "THE EVIL THAT MEN DO" WAS SPECTACULAR AND THE RICH CORBEN, THREE TALE COLOR MASTERPIECE, THE "CHILD" SERIES, IS A COLLECTOR'S DREAM. BERNI WRIGHTSON'S "THE PEPPER LAKE MONSTER" WAS AN EC-TRADITION CLASSIC. "THE MANHUNTER" BY WALLY WOOD WAS ANOTHER CLASSIC!

MANY EERIE ISSUES WOULD BE WORTH HAVING FOR THE COVER ALONE! CHECK THE COVERS BELOW AND YOU WILL FIND MANY FRANK FRAZETTA MASTERPIECES. THE EGYPTIAN QUEEN ON THE COVER OF EERIE #23 IS ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE (AND DESIRABLE) WOMEN FRAZETTA HAS PAINTED. THERE IS THE JEFF JONES/VAUGHN BODE CASTLE IN THE CLOUDS COLLABORATION OF EERIE #27. THE RICH CORBEN BEAUTY AND BEAST OF #32. AND THE KEN KELLY EERIE #38 COVER IS NOTHING SHORT OF SPECTACULAR. AND THERE ARE MORE FRAZETTA, MORE BODE, MORE KELLY COVERS PLUS MANY GREATS BY OTHER FINE ARTISTS. CHECK THEM OUT. MANY EERIE MAGAZINES WOULD BE WORTH OWNING SIMPLY FOR A SINGLE TALE THAT APPEARS IN THAT ISSUE! "FOOTSTEPS OF FRANKENSTEIN" BY REED CRANDALL WAS A TERRIFYING TALE. "IT THAT LURKS," A DAN ADKINS MASTERPIECE. "DARK RIDER" BY JOHN SEVERIN WAS AN EXCELLENT WESTERN TALE. AND THERE ARE MANY, MANY MORE.

EERIE 1970 YEARBK.
#1BYB70/$4.00

EERIE 1971 YEARBK.
#1BYB71/$3.00

EERIE 1972 YEARBK.
#1BYB72/$2.50

EERIE #2
#1B02/$5.00

EERIE #3
#1B03/$3.50

EERIE #4
#1B04/$3.50

EERIE #5
#1B05/$3.50

EERIE #13
#1B13/$3.00

EERIE #14
#1B14/$3.00

EERIE #15
#1B15/$3.00

EERIE #16
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EERIE #19
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EERIE #30
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EERIE #31
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EERIE #58
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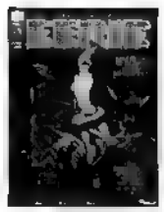
EERIE #59
#1B59/$1.50


EERIE #60
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EERIE #61
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EERIE #62
#1B62/$1.50

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

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EERIE #7
#1B07/$3.50

EERIE #8
#1B08/$3.50

EERIE #9
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EERIE #10
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EERIE #63
#1B63/$1.50

EERIE #64
#1B64/$1.50

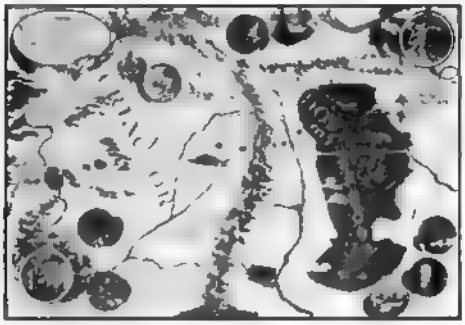
EERIE #65
#1B65/$1.50

EERIE #1 is gone! This fantastic collector's item is sold out entirely. The other issues are left . . . for a while. Soon you will be forced to pay comic dealers' exorbitant prices to obtain rare EERIE back issues . . . when you can get them at all. You have a great collection already . . . sure, but have you checked it over lately? Do you have all the fantastic Frazetta covers, the great Ortiz stories, the whole Dax saga? Do you have them ALL? Remember how your mother thought that EERIE #7 was the perfect thickness to level the hole in the basement so that the washing machine would sit evenly? The "Sea Witch" was flooded with soap-suds and your mother got a new washer. You'd been meaning to get a new #7 for years! And what about that New Year's Eve when your dog got angry about being left alone and ate the entire EERIE #48? You're a collector! Order Now!

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

THINK THESE JIGSAW PUZZLES ARE EASY?

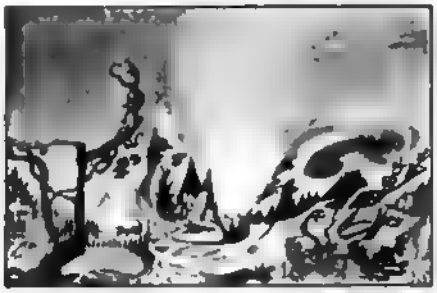
TWO-SIDED HOBBIT PUZZLE



A Brand-new puzzle based on J.R.R. Tolkien's classic fantasy, "The Lord of the Rings" "The Hobbit" is a two-sided puzzle, with this side featuring a map of Middle Earth. Relive Bilbo's travels through the lands of Griador and Rhovanion. This big color puzzle is 15"x21" and contains over 500 pieces. #24112/$4.95

After you've completed the Middle Earth puzzle, simply turn it over to begin on a beautiful Middle Earth landscape. This unique new concept provides puzzle lovers with hours of challenging fun and amusement.

MIDDLE-EARTH MURAL



This Middle-Earth Mural completes the collector's series of "Lord of the Rings" puzzles. It is 15"x21" with over 500 interlocking pieces. It is a stunning, beautiful work of art in fabulous, fantasy color. A must for Lord of the Rings fans and puzzle freaks. Don't miss it. #24128/$4.95

VAMPIRELLA

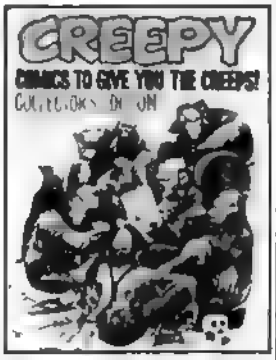
At last! A jigsaw puzzle featuring everyone's favorite female, Vampirella. This puzzle features Vampi in the classic Gonzalez pose! A 15"x21" collector's item! Color. 500+ pieces. #24126/$4.98

CHEECH WIZARD

Vaughn Bode's "Cheech Wizard" comic strip has been a favorite with fans everywhere. Now Bode has created an original puzzle featuring Cheech the Hat! $4.95 15"x21", 500+ pieces. #24127.

CREEPY

The cover of issue #1 is the subject of this Warren puzzle. Jack Davis created the original concept of old Uncle Creepy for this collector's item book. Get this great illustration in the form of a 17"x11" puzzle. 250 pieces. Color! Don't miss it. #2425/$3.50



EERIE

From the magnificent brush of artist Frank Frazetta comes the cover of Eerie #23. This superb painting is now a full color giant 15"x 21" poster puzzle featuring the best in high quality puzzle entertainment. Over 500 pieces. A Warren cover. #2429/$4.98

A Warren cover masterpiece! Evily, a demon mistress of darkness, appears here just the way she did on the cover of Vampi #2. Color. 250+ pieces. #2426/$2.98

The deadly traveler of the shadows lives again! An original cover from a 40s Shadow pulp 16"x20". Over 400 pieces. Color. #2430/$4.98

Relive a bygone era when crime was king! An original pulp magazine cover dating to the '30s. Over 500 pieces. Color. #2432/$4.98

Nostalgia buffs and puzzle connoisseurs will love this reproduction of a 1930's pulp cover. Over 500 pieces. #2431/$4.98

Tarzan, the victorious bull-ape! An Original Sunday comics page by Burne Hogarth! A true work of art by one of the master illustrators. Over 500 pcs. #2455/$4.98

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

STAR TREK JIGSAW PUZZLES

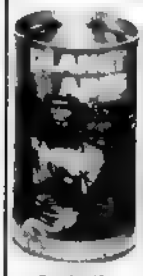
Battle on the Planet Romulus. Join the first officers of the Enterprise as they combat a dangerous alien. 14" x 10". 150 interlocking pieces. #24129/$1.50

The crew of the Enterprise foils the attempted hi-jacking of the vessel and its crew by an interloping alien. 18" x 14". Over 300 pieces. #24125/$2.00

Battle on the Planet Kingon. Kirk and Spock battle a multi-tentacled creature on the deadly planet surface. 14" x 10". Over 150 pieces. #24130/$1.50

PLANET of the APES JIGSAW PUZZLES

FULL COLOR! OVER 100 PIECES! BIG 10"x14"



Puzzle #1
#2485/$1.25

Puzzle #2
#2486/$1.25

Puzzle #3
#2487/$1.25

ASSEMBLE APE SCENES

Now you can own and assemble three great jigsaw puzzles from the world-famous PLANET OF THE APES motion pictures. Puzzle #1 features a warrior ape from the army of General Ursus. Puzzle #2 is of General Ursus himself. Puzzle #3 features Zira, Cornelius and Lucius. These puzzles come packed in a sturdy tin with a wrap-around color photo of the puzzle. Each is a big 10" x14" contains over 100 pieces and provides hours of challenge.

GIANT 6 FT. KONG POSTER

KING KONG TOWERS ABOVE THE TEAMING METROPOLIS IN THIS HUGE POSTER, MEASURING A GIANT 6'x4⅓'. THIS IS A BLACK AND WHITE MASTERPIECE, A SUPERGRAPHIC DESIGN FOR YOUR ROOM, DEN OR PLAYROOM.

Own a poster of the simian giant who demolished New York & captured the hearts of a generation of movie-goers. This is the amazing story of Kong, captured on an uncharted island and brought to New York in chains, displayed before a vast audience, only to escape and wreak havoc on the city. King Kong is the protagonist in the ultimate saga of the beauty & the beast. The tragic animated victim of men's greed and his own heart's desire. Now you can own this poster of Kong in his glory. #2966/$4.95

FULL COLOR DINOSAUR JIGSAW PUZZLES

The Age of Reptiles lives again in these three panoramic, full color dinosaur puzzles. Each has a big 200 pieces and is a large 20"x12" when fully assembled. Hours of fun; great to mount and display!

TYLOSAUR vs. PTERANODON

The waves of a prehistoric ocean are choppy with death as these great lizards battle it out. Pteranodon was the first winged animal, Tylosaur was the ancient ancestor of our own modern-day Loch Ness Monster. The two were blood enemies, as both fed upon fish from the sea. Magnificent tilt! #2677/$1.39

BRONTOSAUR

This is the big one! All 30 tons of the Brontosaur are here in this exciting puzzle. The Brontosaur had to spend most of his time in water for two reasons: it helped support his massive weight, and kept him safe from predators, meat-eating dinosaurs who couldn't swim. Bronto was strictly a vegetarian beast. #2679/$1.39

TYRANNOSAUR vs. TRICERATOPS

The earth quakes as these two most famous dinosaurs battle it out to the death. The Tyrannosaur, King of the Dinosaurs and mightiest of the meat-eaters, and Triceratops, a peaceful vegetarian, are a well-matched pair, the Tyrannosaurus battling with 6" teeth, his companion using 3 sharp ivory horns. #2678/$1.39

POSTERS BY RICH CORBEN

TWO HAND-SEPARATED COLOR 11"x14" WARRIOR PORTRAITS

ANTICIPATION
#2970/$1.50

MIDNIGHT BATTLE
#2969/$1.50

If you like them in black and white, you should see them in color! These 11"x14" full color fantasy posters are done in Rich Corben's own inimitable style with his spectacular hand-separated color. "Midnight Battle" is done in sunrise hues and shows the victorious warrior standing athwart the bodies of slaughtered beasts. The heroine stares at him adoringly. "Anticipation" shows the warrior at rest in a green and blue landscape. The girl tickles his face with grass.

FRIGHT FILMS REGULAR & SUPER 8

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLFMAN

High in the Carpathian Mountains, a mad scientist works to revive the Frankenstein monster. And he succeeds, in time for the living corpse to do battle with a rampant wolfman. Lightning, fangs, and action galore. Fight between the monsters is one of horror filmdoms finest. Stars Lugosi as Frankenstein, and Chaney as Wolfman #2227/$7.99

DOOM OF DRACULA

Boris Karloff portrays a carnival owner who locates the remains of Count Dracula. He brings the vampire back to life, and sends him on an utterly diabolical mission. Soon, however, Karloff realizes he has made a mistake, as Dracula turns on him! John Carradine plays Dracula. Sequel is "House of Frankenstein" film. #2246/$7.99

THE INVISIBLE MAN

This is it! The original motion picture featuring HG Wells' classic character. This effort introduced the great Claude Raines to the industry. Startling special effects by John P. Fulton, which show man who becomes transparent due to scientific experiments. A chilling, absorbing film, one of the all-time greats. #2237/$7.99

HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN

Follow-up feature to "Doom of Dracula." Karloff stars as scientist disguised as Carny owner, who is journeying the world-over in search of the Frankenstein monster. And, finally, he finds it... returning it to life. But then, trouble! For the Wolfman arrives on the scene, to destroy the doctor and his new 'patient.' #2247/$7.99

THE "ORIGINAL" MUMMY

One of Karloff's most memorable performances, one of the great horror films. Excavation in Egypt uncovers tomb of Mummy Im-ho-tep. That night, he comes back to life. After murdering one of the scientists, the bandaged beast makes for London. There, he seeks the reincarnation of his one-time Egyptian mistress. Film is Im-ho-TOPS! #2224/$7.99

THE MUMMY'S GHOST

Here is an exciting sequel to "The Mummy." Lon Chaney portrays the man of rotted cloth, as he terrorizes a scientific gathering about his sacred sarcophagus. And, as fate would have it, he falls for the young lady scientist who is a part of this expedition. This Mummy is more brutal, more deadly than the Karloff one. #2269/$7.99

REVENGE OF THE CREATURE

A sequel to the original "Creature" film, this movie has a second excursion into the beast's Amazonian home to capture the monster. They take him into captivity and civilization. There, from the confines of an aquarium pool, the Creature brutally mangles his captors and escapes! Rampant, the Gill-Man kills many! #2254/$7.99

I WAS A TEENAGE WEREWOLF

One of the most popular monster movies in history. A young boy visits a psychiatrist for to solve his various hang-ups. But the doctor, himself, is deranged, and hypnotizes the boy. Under hypnosis, the young man is convinced by the psychiatrist that he is a werewolf! Then, it's off to kill for the doctor! #2221/$7.99

RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE

This is the big one! Vampire vs. werewolf in horrific shocker. Bela Lugosi portrays the blood-gulper, who subjugates a ferocious werewolf. And, then, together, the two go in search of unsuspecting victims. Lugosi is at his menacing best in this, one of his four vampire roles. The ending is a gripping one, that must be seen. #2267/$8.95

RETURN OF DRACULA

Dracula is back, in the form of actor Charles Lederer. The Count moves into a small, isolated town and begins to live as a parasite, sucking the blood of the plain country folk around him. All goes well ... until the infamous monster is found out and hunted. One of the most unusual Dracula films ever produced. A must. #2273/$7.99

MAN-MADE MONSTER

A team-up of two great horror actors. Lionel Atwill portrays a mad scientist, and Lon Chaney, a truck driver killed in an accident. Atwill discovers the body and through the use of high-voltage electricity, brings Chaney back to life. But the truck driver is no longer human. He's become an electric monstrosity! #2264/$7.99

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

SOLD OUT

A classic of filmmaking. The second filming of Hugo's immortal novel stars Charles [illegible] ly misshaped Quasimodo [illegible] m tells [illegible] beauty: the gypsy Esmeralda. And the horrors that befall the young girl in the France of yore. A sensitive monster movie. #2238/$7.99

TASTE THE BLOOD OF DRACULA

Many fans of horror films consider Christopher Lee the finest screen Dracula. And in this film, his awesome talent is in evidence. Tall, violent, and menacing, Lee is the immortal count. Here, he travels from Transylvania to London. His plan is to ravage four respectable families in the great city. And this he does, brutally! #2265/$7.99

STRAIT-JACKET

Joan Crawford, star of "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane" joined with "Rosemary's Baby" Bill Castle to create this modern-day horror classic. This film is not for the faint-hearted, as it is about a series of brutal axe-murders. Is Crawford victim or killer? Warning: vicious axe-killings appear in this film. A real shocker! #2266/$8.95

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS

Peter Lorre stars in this incredible film of a concert pianist. So far, not very frightening. But when he is possessed by devilish madness, his gentle hands become instruments of vile murder. And then is unleashed the incredible Beast With Five Fingers. Lorre at his horrific best, with a fine supporting cast. #2230/$7.99

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

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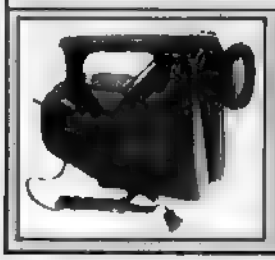

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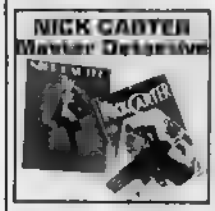

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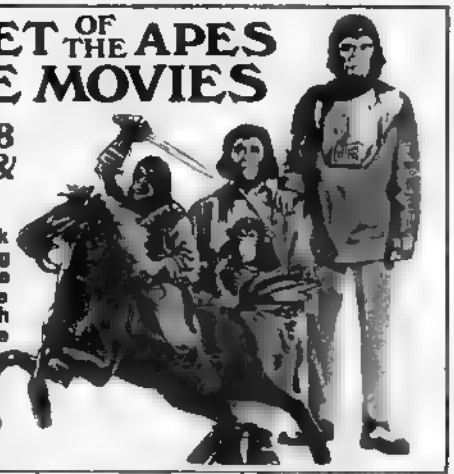

BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES

More astronauts land. They are befriended by Cornelius and his girlfriend, Zira. They journey to the Forbidden City and discover a race of horrifying mutants inhabiting the lower regions of the atom-blasted city. Apes, humans and mutants clash in a fierce battle for atomic warheads. #22054/$7.99

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ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES

Cornelius and Zira find a working spaceship, escape atomic destruction of the Ape world, journey through the same time warp that stranded the humans. They land on Earth 1973. Police are hostile. Governments attack them. And destroy them. The battle aboard a freighter is a spectacular thriller! #22055/$7.99

CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

After the destruction of Cornelius and Zira, their young son, Caesar, remains. He is raised and taught by a kindly circus owner who realizes his origin. True to his warrior's name, he leads an insurrection against the ape-slaves' human owners. Los Angeles is destroyed in the raging battle. #22056/$7.99

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Caesar has become a peaceful and benevolent leader. His curiosity prompts him to explore the Forbidden City in search of tape-recordings of his parents. He is discovered by mutants who follow him, determined to destroy the village of the Apes. Aldo determines to overthrow Caesar. #22057/$7.99

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Sinbad begins his perilous journey by confronting an enormous statue with six arms. Through the magic of an indestructible sorcerer, the monolith comes to life and does battle with Sinbad and his men. In the confines of a gold-filled cavern, man vs beast, & a strange battle reigns. B/W #22038/$8.49, Color #22039/$17.99

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CHAPTER 4
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Both Sinbad and the evil magician Koura arrive at the magic fountain in which rests the golden crown. Both have fought long and hard to attain this goal, and now they must combat each other. But Koura has an advantage: A magic cloak and sword. The sword makes him strong, the cape invisible! B/W #22044/$8.49, Color #22045/$17.99

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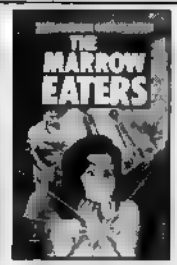

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Creatures from a pit of unspeakable horror crawl amongst mankind, sucking life from our bones. #21047/$1.00

Ghouls and zombies, vampires and wolfmen; a fascinating collection of stories dealing with creatures that cannot die. Dracula is a prominent member of our cast, as is Frankenstein and a selection of the most unusual monsters ever

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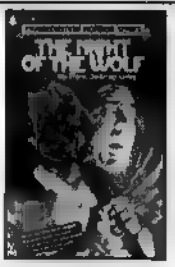

NIGHT OF THE WOLF
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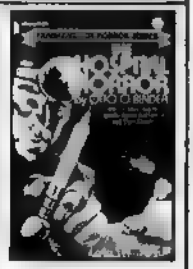

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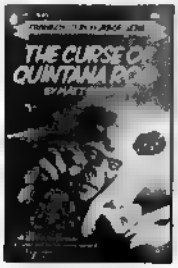

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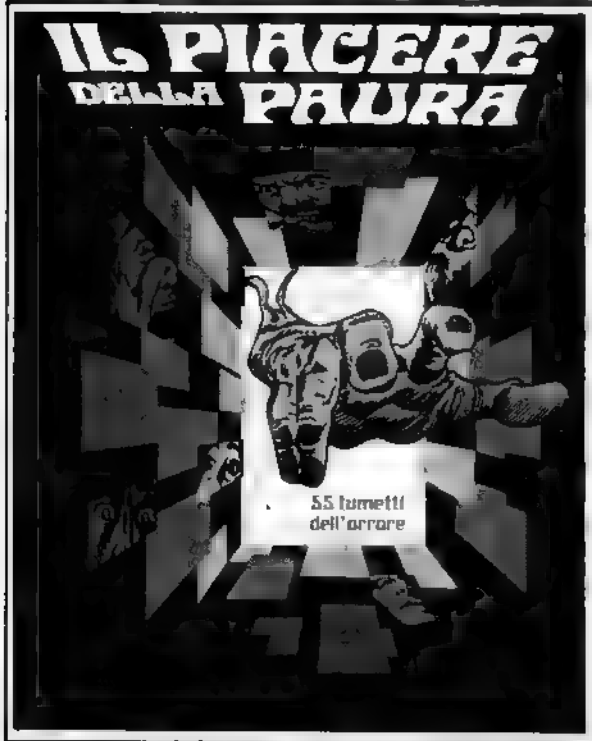
HORROR REVIEW



"IL PIACERE DELLA PAURA" 10"x 12" HARDCOVER BOOK ON THE "PLEASURES OF FEAR"

This high quality 220 page Italian book has something for everyone interested in the horror comic genre. It begins with seven full color pages of Windsor McCay's "Dreams of a Rarebit Fiend" (you can't find a much finer opener than that). It proceeds through early EC pages into the present with examples from adult underground European comics and the American comics underground with sample stories by Rich Corben and Greg Irons. Many American and European "aboveground" publishers are also represented, including five Warren Publishing black and white tales reproduced in full. Samples are included of European work by such foreign favorites as Esteban Maroto, Jose Bea and many whose work is less familiar to the majority of the American horror comics audience. The text in Italian doesn't present as much of a problem as you might have expected. The art tends to speak for itself. "Il Piacere della Paura" has the best in international horror comic art and authorship from McCay's "Dreams of a Rarebit Fiend" to Corben's "Cid & Opey!" Order this book now! #21170/$13.95.

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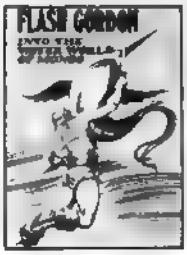

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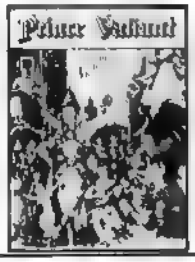

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HAUNT OF FEAR #23 Awful tales of EC terror! Evan's "No Silver Atoll" Davis "Country Clubbing" "Hansel and Gretal" by Kamen Ingles contributes "CreepCourse" plus "Ghastly" cover A must! #21164, $1.25

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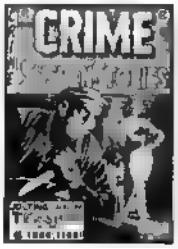
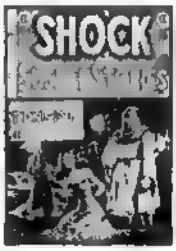
WEIRD SCIENCE #15 Wally Wood leads off with his sci-fi tale "Martians" followed by Jack Kamen's "Miscalculation" Orlando's "Bum Steer" and Al Williamson's "Captivity" Also, a biography of artist Orlando #21038 $1.50



CRIME SUSPENSTORIES #25 Gripping tales of criminal terror "Three Forthe Money" by Jack Kamen, "Dog Food" by Reed Crandall, plus Key Chain" by Bernie Krigstein and "The Squeeler" by artist G. Evans. #21115 $1.50

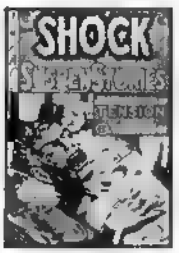
VAULT OF HORROR #26. "Two of a Kind" by Johnny Craig, "Half-Way Horrible" by Jack Kamen Graham Ingels' "Hook, Line, and Sinker," and a special cover story by Jack Davis entitled "Graft in Concrete" Great! #21120 $1.25



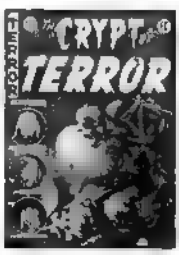
SHOCK SUSPENSE STORIES #6. "Dead Right" by Kamen, Orlando's "Not So Tough," Sugar and Spice" by Ghastly, and one of the most important comic stories ever, Wood's "Under Cover" A Shocker! #21122, $1.25

WEIRD FANTASY #13 Two incredible tales by Wally Wood hilight this incredible issue "Home To Stay" tells of an astronaut's last flight, "The End" recounts man's last days Also work by Joe Orlando and Jack Kamen #21095 $1.50

HAUNT OF FEAR #12 One of EC's finest efforts. Features Ingels "Poetic Justice" from movie "Tales From The Crypt" along with Davis' "What's Cookin' and tales by Orlando and Craig Plus Craig bio #21080 $1.50



SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES #12 Starring "The Kidnapper" by Reed Crandall, and featuring "The Monkey" by Joe Orlando, "Fall Guy" by Wally Wood (with a climax you won't forget) and "Deadline" by Jack Kamen #21075 $1.50



CRYPT OF TERROR #1 Features the work of Davis, Evans, Graham Ingels, has story Blind Alley" from movie "Tales From the Crypt." Cover by Jack Davis. This one is a vintage EC comic book #2185 $2.00

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